

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIV.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1896.

No. 14.

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BIRTHS.

- On the 15th September, at Manila, the wife of
FRANCIS E. CONEY, of a daughter. [2192]
At Shanghai, on the 23rd inst., the wife of A.
KORFF, of a daughter. [2193]
At 20, Belilios Terrace, Hongkong, on Sunday
the 27th September, Mrs. ROBERT MOIR, of a son. [2221]

MARRIAGE.

- On the 17th September, at the Church of St.
Michael and All Angels, Sandakan, by the Rev. W.
H. ELTON, BERNARD VICTOR KLAMBERG, to JENNIE
MEREDITH, daughter of E. L. WOODIN, of Sanda-
kan. [2194]

DEATH.

- At Shanghai, on the 19th September, 1896, ANNIE,
the beloved wife of W. E. BENTON, aged 46 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 28th August arrived,
per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, on the 28th
September (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The French Concession at Shanghai is being
lighted with electricity.

A Public Company has been formed at Saigon
to work the tin mines in the Laos province of
Kammoun.

Hall & Holtz, Limited, have declared an
interim dividend of two dollars per share,
being at the rate of ten per cent.

Lai Mit, who murdered a Chinese policeman
in Hongkong some weeks ago and afterwards
fled to Chinese territory, was beheaded at Kow-
loon City on the 23rd September.

The bodies of the two Japanese who were
beheaded at Nanking by the Chinese authorities
during the war as spies have been brought
down to Shanghai, to be conveyed to Japan for
interment.

The annual meeting of the China Traders
Insurance Co., Limited, was held on the 26th
September, when the report was adopted with-
out discussion.

Provisional regulations for trade with the
ports of Hangchow and Soochow have been
published. The Custom Houses were to be
opened on the 26th September.

Sir Claude MacDonald, in reply to an inquiry
by the Hongkong General Chamber of Com-
merce, states that negotiations respecting the
opening of the West River are still in progress
in London.

The annual report of S. C. Farnham & Co.,
Limited (Shanghai), shows a net profit, in-
cluding Tls. 7,424 brought forward, of Tls.
198,038. It is proposed to pay a dividend of
Tls. 14 per share, to place Tls. 70,000 to credit
of reserve fund, to write off Tls. 10,000, and to
carry forward Tls. 13,038.

At Haiphong on the night of the 17th
September, we learn from the *Indo-Chine
Francaise*, an armed attack was made upon the
Banque de l'Indo-Chine by a band of about
twenty. The probable object was to capture
the Manager. The watchman was half killed
and was admitted to hospital. The European
population was much excited.

H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager left Peking
to take up her residence at Eho Park on the
30th August. The princes and ministers of
the Emperor's Court prostrated themselves
outside the West Gate of Peking in farewell to
the Imperial cortege, and H.I.M. the Emperor
did the same at the Yingshu gate of the
Palace.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The other day we noted that the native
private postal agencies in Shanghai tried to
disobey the circular of the Imperial Postal
authorities to register at the Customs by
petitioning the Viceroy Liu offering to sell
their agencies to the Government. Finding
their petition was unavailing they are now
eager to register.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The rebellion in the Philippines continues
and according to the latest advices the province
of Cavite, with the exception of the town of
that name, was still in possession of the rebels.
Many friars have been murdered under cir-
cumstances of shocking barbarity. At Singa-
pore a neutrality proclamation has been
published and the export of arms to the Philip-
pines prohibited.

Mr. E. H. Fraser, Acting Consul at Canton,
in his report for last year says:—The utter
collapse of China in the war with Japan came
home slowly to the southern Chinese, but the
pressure on the people necessitated by war ex-
penses and indemnity caused much discontent,
which showed itself in numerous local risings
and in the prevalence and boldness of gang
robberies in Canton and its suburbs. In Octo-
ber a serious plot to seize the city was discovered,
but its failure was due more to the ineptitude
of its organisers than to the vigour of the local
authorities. The ringleaders escaped abroad,
and are still a source of uneasiness to the Viceroy
and his advisers. There is little doubt that, as
educated Chinese visit foreign countries in in-
creasing numbers, and translations of works
bearing on government become more widely
read, dissatisfaction with the administration of
their native country is growing among the
southern Chinese, and, if no attempt at reform
is made, may result in a serious insurrection.

In the early part of this month a large part
of Ichang was flooded owing to the rise of the
river. Along the back of the settlement was
quite an encampment of people fleeing from
the flood, and the pond in the valley was turned
into a large lake on which craft of all sizes
were sailing. The roofs of farm houses just
appeared above the water.

The annual meeting of the Douglas Steam-
ship Co., Limited, was held on the 26th Sep-
tember. The Chairman announced that in
deference to the wishes of a large number of
shareholders a bonus of \$2 per share would be
paid in addition to the dividend of \$6 per share.
With this amendment the report was adopted.
The amount of bonus asked for was, we believe,
\$4 per share, while the General Managers and
Consulting Committee were opposed to the
payment of any bonus, so that the \$2 agreed
upon represented a compromise.

The pirates are still active in Tonkin. On
the 14th September, M. Gobert, who has a
plantation in the province of Bacninh, was in-
formed by a man who had been captured by the
villagers of Tiendzue, that Lanh Tuo's band
was in the neighbouring hills. M. Gobert
gave information to the posts at Phulo, Chong,
and Trinhnhu. At six o'clock on the morning
of the 15th a search was made amongst the
hills and at last the pirates were found. On
being discovered they at once opened fire. The
fight continued all that day and it was not
until about one o'clock next morning that the
pirates broke away from the village which they
had occupied, and the force operating against
them being insufficient to completely surround
the hill they escaped. It is believed their in-
tention was to have kidnapped M. Goubert
and held him to ransom. They were prevented
from carrying out their intention, but at the
cost of the lives of two Frenchmen, one an
officer and the other an employé on M. Gou-
bert's estate, both of whom were killed in the
action.

Referring to Mr. Dudgeon's mission to
Peking the *N. C. Daily News* says:—Primarily,
Mr. Dudgeon goes to Peking as the represen-
tative of the new cotton mill industry; to show
the Diplomatic Body the impolicy of allowing
the products of the four cotton mills that are
now rising so rapidly in Shanghai to be taxed
more highly than imported goods, whether
directly or by means of squeezes on the raw cot-
ton, or by squeezes on the goods themselves after
they leave the mills; and the injustice of show-
ing any preference to the mills entirely owned
by Chinese. Mr. Dudgeon has also undertaken
to represent the Chamber of Commerce in the
matter of the proposed revision of the tariff,
his instructions practically being that importers
here will agree to the raising of the tariff to
ten per cent. *ad valorem*, if all internal squeezes
and restrictions on the trade are removed. He
will also explain the condition of the China tea
trade, whose threatened extinction is largely
due to the high local and imperial taxation to
which tea is subject, amounting often at pre-
sent prices to fifty and more per cent. China
tea cannot obviously now hope to compete with
the entirely untaxed product of Ceylon and
India. The foreign tea-merchants propose the
entire abolition of duties on tea; a suggestion
which may shock the Board of Revenue, but
whose adoption would be a benefit of the highest
importance to the native tea-growers and mer-
chants.

CHINESE TARIFF REVISION.

The negotiations with regard to an increase of the import duties in China will evidently start with a very wide divergence of views as between the Chinese Government and the British residents in China. LI HUNG-CHANG has declared that the Chinese Government will not consent to abolish lekin, and the British and foreign merchants and traders with equal decision are prepared to insist that only on such a basis as the abolition of all inland charges is it possible to concede an increase in the tariff. The ex-Viceroy endeavoured to dazzle the British public and the Premier with the bait that China would require large loans with which to build railways, the money to be raised in Great Britain and spent there in material. But Lord SALISBURY was not dazzled. He has heard this sort of thing before, and he very sensibly rejoined that he would refer the proposals to the Chambers of Commerce in the Far East for their opinion. The Chambers of Commerce will, we take it, repeat what has already been laid down by the China Association, that they have no objection to a moderate increase of the *ad valorem* duties on imports, provided the one duty frees the goods for distribution all over the Empire. If, however, the imports are to be charged double the present duty and still to be subject to the numerous imposts which at present so greatly restrict trade in the interior, then the Treaty Powers will only be agreeing to saddle their productions with an increased duty which will assuredly serve to further restrict trade without giving them a single advantage beyond, perhaps, a few contracts for railway material, new gunboats, and arms. It is true that LI HUNG-CHANG is reported to have said that China was willing to open the whole of her seaboard to foreign trade; but this concession would certainly not prove of much advantage if the provincial officials retain the power to levy such a multiplicity of duties on the goods as will effectually debar them from finding their way into the interior. It is of course desirable to increase the points of contact, but the opening of new ports, unless in a few isolated cases, would serve to divide the existing trade rather than to very greatly increase it. Proof of this is afforded in the comparatively small results which for some years attended the opening of the new ports under the Chefoo Convention. To secure any really considerable expansion of foreign trade with China it will be necessary to obtain free access to the interior for goods that have once paid the import duty. We naturally hope to see some development of trade follow the opening of Hangchow, Soochow, Shashi, and Chungking, but it would be folly to expect any very great commercial movement thereupon. Nor, much as we desire to see the inland waters of the Two Kwang opened up to steamer navigation and trade, do we look for any astonishing increase in trade to result therefrom for some years to come. The growth will be gradual, and it may for a time be small and disappointing. With free access to the interior after payment of a single duty franking the goods to any part of the Empire, we undoubtedly should witness a large and immediate growth of trade. This is what we want and what we must have if we consent to the import duties being raised from 5 per cent *ad valorem* to 10 per cent. The sooner the ex-Viceroy of Chihli and the Tsung-li Yamen understand this the better it will be for both parties, as it may serve to avert a great deal of useless discussion.

A STAMP TAX FOR CHINA.

It will be seen from our Canton Notes that a censor has suggested that as a means of increasing the revenue of China a stamp tax should be imposed. Considering how ingenious the Chinese officials are in the imposition of, squeezes it is almost a wonder that this idea has never occurred to them before. The Censor estimates that the tax would yield not less than a hundred million taels a year, which would be a nice addition to the revenue of any country and especially to China in her present straits. The Censor, moreover, seems to have some regard to the real welfare of the nation, for he suggests that if the proposed stamp tax were imposed lekin might be done away with. In most civilised countries the stamp tax is a recognised institution and excites comparatively little discontent, though if it be closely examined it is as objectionable a means of raising revenue as could well be conceived. A taxpayer who would grumble exceedingly if it were proposed to add a given sum to the house tax will pay ten times the amount in stamp dues on his daily mercantile transactions without ever thinking about it. Although much more money is taken out of his pocket he seems to feel it less, because it is taken in dribblets, just as people who indulge in extravagant luxuries cheerfully pay for them as they consume them without ever thinking of what the cost amounts to in the course of a year. Stamp taxes, therefore, owing to the small amount of opposition they excite, are a favourite form of taxation with Governments. And, notwithstanding the abstract objections to a stamp tax, it would certainly be a great improvement on lekin tax, as it would lend itself less easily to squeezing. The lekin tax is farmed out and the farmer and his minions down to the very lowest rank have to make what they can out of it, the principle being to extort the highest amount possible from the owner of the goods on which the tax is levied and to account for the smallest sum possible. A stamp tax would not so readily lend itself to that form of treatment. The tax on each particular instrument would of necessity have to be fixed, and although the ingenuity of the collector might enable him sometimes to impose on the public for his own benefit, the number of officials engaged in the service would be much smaller than in the case of lekin and at the same time their opportunities of squeezing, if not altogether done away with, would be largely reduced. The change from lekin to stamp tax might therefore be accepted with satisfaction if there were any possibility of carrying it out. The stamp tax, however, is only adapted to a country in which the people are as a rule willing to render to the Government its just dues without evasion, whereas in China the people look upon the Government as their natural enemy; they expect the officials to squeeze them as much as they can, while they themselves are firmly resolved to pay no more than they can help and think it a very proper thing indeed to evade payment of a tax if the opportunity offers. In business they are willing to deal with each other on a basis of mutual trust when the characters of both are known, and the two parties to any particular transaction would quite readily agree to waive the formality of stamping and to share the amount of the duty saved thereby. In Hongkong, while the Europeans pay the stamp duty as a matter of course without giving it a second thought, probably not one tenth part of the commercial instruments which change hands

amongst the Chinese pass through the stamp office. Land transfers are an exception, because they have to be registered and so pass official scrutiny, but the Censor who has proposed the institution of a stamp tax in China can hardly have supposed that the large sum of a hundred million taels could be raised from land transfers alone, and on any other description of transactions a stamp tax in China would remain almost a dead letter.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLANDS.

The rebellions in Cuba and the Philippines should teach the Spanish Government some useful lessons, supposing that these outbreaks are eventually subdued. The insurrection in Cuba is, however, on a large scale, and the issue is by no means a foregone conclusion. The rebels have the immense advantage of being at home and acclimatized. They are, moreover, better acquainted with the country and are well supplied with arms. The Spanish leaders are not even united, and they appear to have mismanaged affairs, so that prospects are anything but bright for Spain in the Pearl of the Antilles. The cost of the campaign is also enormous, and is proving a severe drain on the Madrid Treasury. The outbreak in the Philippines is likely to still further tax the resources of the Spanish Government. They are sending out two thousand men with all speed, and intend to raise the European force in the islands from 1,500 to 8,000 as soon as possible. Prevention would have been better than cure, if an efficient white army had been maintained before, the rebellion might not have occurred at all. The Spaniards in Manila have been relying on native troops, and they may find that they have been leaning on a broken reed. It is doubtful whether these troops will fire on their own countrymen, and if the rebels once achieve a substantial success the whole of the native army is very likely to go over to them in a body. The Spaniards, however, possess one immense advantage over the insurgents. The latter have scarcely any firearms, and few serviceable weapons of any kind. The danger is, of course, that they should attack and seize the arsenal at Cavite before the reinforcements arrive from Spain. They have not the same facilities for obtaining arms as the Cubans, being practically destitute of money or means of communication with other countries. They are therefore driven, by their necessities, to, if possible, secure control of the arms and ammunition now held by the Government of the Philippines. If they can do this, it is possible that they may either dictate terms or fire out the Spanish troops by a stubborn and exhausting defence. The situation is undoubtedly serious, if not critical. The time has arrived for the Spanish authorities at Manila to carefully consider their ways and ask themselves whether the people have any real causes of complaint. A very brief inquiry in this direction would suffice to show that there are many grievances unredressed. The tyranny of the religious orders, the exactions of the officials, the heavy tariff on foreign goods, and the illiberal treatment of all matters pertaining to trade go to make up a strong case against the existing order of things. Do the Spaniards recognise that the discontent with the present administration is due in part to the ignorance of the people and the heavy taxation imposed upon them? Even in the very hour of trouble when one would think the Spanish Govern-

ment would recognise the advisability of doing everything possible to encourage trade and thus add to the revenue, they are bent upon raising the taxes not only on imports but also on exports. As though the duties now imposed were not already sufficiently high, the Authorities have just increased their Customs tariff. A landing tax of two per cent. is to be paid on all cargo discharged and a consumption tax is imposed in addition to the duties already in force. The duty on hemp is raised fifty per cent, that on sugar one hundred per cent; copra, which was free, is now to pay ten cents per 100 kilogrammes, manufactured tobacco \$3.10 instead of being free; and on raw tobacco there is an all round increase of one hundred to one hundred and fifty per cent. The result will be, no doubt, to stimulate production in Borneo, Malaya, and the Netherlands Indies. The Spaniards seem bent on killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. In the Philippines they possess a magnificent colony which should yield a splendid revenue and be exceedingly prosperous; plenty and content should reign where anarchy and discontent prevail, and which may take years to repress and generations to extinguish. The rudely armed and undisciplined bodies of rebels now in the field will no doubt soon be dispersed when the regular troops are brought against them, but they will not return to their allegiance; they will only wait for another opportunity to again try conclusions with their oppressors, as they consider the priests and rulers. If the Spanish Government desire to restore order and create a lasting peace in the colony they should issue a Commission to inquire into the causes of the rising, and if they find the grievances alleged are well founded take the necessary steps to have them redressed.

EXTRATERRITORIALITY APPLIED TO ASIATICS IN SIAM.

The other day rather a dramatic scene occurred in the Siamese criminal court at Bangkok. A man was placed upon his trial on a charge of murder, but soon after the proceedings commenced the French Minister appeared with his interpreter and formally protested against the trial proceeding, on the ground that the accused was a French protégé and that the Siamese Court had therefore no jurisdiction. The Minister then withdrew, and, after a short adjournment for consideration, the trial was resumed. The evidence was not concluded, however, at the close of the day, and next morning, when it should have been continued, the Attorney-General was sick, and the case was adjourned *sine die*, which means, we believe, that the whole proceedings have been abandoned. Reuter's Bangkok agent seems to have thought the matter of sufficient importance to telegraph to London, as we find in the Tonkin papers a Havas telegram stating that "an English despatch speaks of a difficulty which has arisen between the Siamese judicial authority at Bangkok and the French Resident." A later telegram states that nothing was known by the French Government about the conflict reported from Siam, from which it would appear that the incident was not considered of sufficient gravity by the French Minister to be reported to his Government by telegram.

The man accused in the case out of which the affair arises is claimed by the Siamese Government as a Siamese subject, while the French claim him as a Cambodian and therefore as subject to French jurisdiction under extraterritorial rights. What

ever may be the real fact, the case is suggestive of the possibility of considerable friction in the future and will probably secure for Siam some sympathy from impartial onlookers on account of the very difficult position in which she is placed. The Cambodians in Siam form a considerable section of the population and the racial distinctions between them and the Siamese is small; they engage in the same occupations as the natives, follow the same manners and customs, live on the same plane with them, and are generally speaking as indistinguishable from the true Siamese as to a foreigner a Scotchman or Irishman would be from an Englishman. The principle of extraterritoriality is that the subjects of Christian nations should not be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of non-Christian nations, but with the extension of European sway over large territories in Asia the principle has become enlarged so as to cover the natives of those territories when they resort to any country with which extraterritorial relations exist. Thus in Siam there is a considerable Indian population over which the British court exercises jurisdiction and a number of Chinese also claiming to be British subjects, while France now steps in and claims extraterritorial rights for all Cambodians and Annamites. The difficult position in which Siam may at times find herself placed by this whittling away of her jurisdiction over her Asiatic population will readily be seen.

One of our Tonkin contemporaries, speaking, in reference to Tonkin itself, of the inertia of the law and the indifference of the Government, says:—"All that transpires proves once more and to the fullest extent that French laws, made for a civilised people long accustomed to them, are not applicable to Oriental nations, for whom they are too anodyne and respect too much in the individual a dignity common amongst us but rare amongst them." If that be so in a country where the administration is in the hands of Europeans how much more must it be the case where the laws have to be administered under the cumbrous system of extraterritoriality, which provides practically no machinery for the repression of crime! It is alleged that the accused in the case recently before the court at Bangkok was a notorious swash-buckler and that he openly boasted of his intention to register as a French protégé in order to have greater latitude in the pursuit of his evil ways. However that may be, the course is one that would commend itself to a person who wished to put himself as far out of the reach of the law as possible, and if the foreign Powers afford facilities to that end Siam may presently find a large portion of her criminal population placed outside her jurisdiction. The difficulty she would have in maintaining order under those circumstances will readily be imagined. The foreign Powers could not surrender their jurisdiction over Asiatics who may be in a position legally to claim their protection, but having regard to the difficulty in which Siam is placed it would be only reasonable that they should render her what assistance may be possible to facilitate the preservation of order and the administration of justice.

The Shensi correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes that Mr. C. Horabin, of the China Inland Mission, died suddenly in his cart, on the 12th of August, while on his way with his wife and three children from Hsian to Kansu. He had been suffering from the intense heat. Very great sympathy is felt for the widowed mother and young children. Mr. Horabin came to China in 1884.

THE OBSERVATORY.

Dr. DOBERCK, in his report on the Observatory for last year, says that all the typhoons which have occurred since the Observatory was started in 1884 have now been investigated, and the staff is at present busy with a revision of the law of storms on the basis of those investigations. This, he says, will probably be finished in a year, and the results can then be utilised for weather forecasts and storm warnings in 1897 and following years. Perhaps no Government department has been made the object of more adverse criticism and ridicule than the Observatory, but some change seems to have taken place during the last few years in public feeling with regard to it. Captain TILLERY, himself an authority on meteorology and a representative of the mercantile marine, has recently written several letters to the press in which this change of feeling makes itself apparent. Criticism is no longer directed against the Observatory's storm warnings, but simply against the alleged defective method of communicating them. The desire to have the information in the possession of the Observatory communicated more fully and more quickly indicates a recognition of the value of the information, and to that extent may be taken as a testimonial to the efficiency of the service. A good deal of the work of the Observatory, however, consists in the compiling of information for future investigation and examination, and of this the public hear and see little. In addition to the investigation of all the typhoons of ten years Dr. DOBERCK tells us that "The entry of observations made at sea in degree squares for the area between 9 deg. south and 45 deg. north latitude and between the longitude of Singapore and 180 deg. east of Greenwich for the construction of trustworthy pilot charts has been continued, and 94,322 observations in all have now been entered." From all this labour the public ought in course of time to derive substantial benefit. In the meantime it may be noted that the Hongkong Observatory is not the only one that has to sustain attacks upon its utility and reliability. The Meteorological Reporter at Simla recently made an unfortunate forecast of the monsoon, and a good deal of newspaper correspondence, in which the official concerned was not spoken of in complimentary terms, followed. It seems that a "scanty" monsoon was promised, whereas almost continuous rain was experienced for nearly seventy days. The monsoon current was pronounced to be first "feeble," and then "deficient;" but the rainfall up to the end of August was in Bombay thirty inches ahead of that of last year, which was by no means a bad year. Commenting on this the *Rangoon Gazette* says:—"Excuses in abundance can be offered for this failure of the official forecast, but what the 'plain man' asks himself is, what is the practical use of a Department that can go so far astray? Its conclusions are not even approximately accurate and no provincial Government, no agriculturist, no mariner would for a moment dream of being guided by these forecasts. It is true forecasting the weather is but a part of the work of the Department, but it is a portion which should be frankly abandoned. The truth is, weather forecasts, to be fairly correct, must be based upon information infinitely fuller than is possible in India at present and perhaps fuller than ever will be possible in India. Daily readings of the barometer from the east coast of Africa, from Central Asia, from the Indian Ocean; these are a few points

"which are absolutely necessary. We hear much of the snowfall on the Himalayas, but at the best this can only be one of the numerous observations, in the absence of which weather forecasting is but a mockery in India. After the experience of the present season, the Department would be wise to let weather prophecy alone; they cannot forecast the weather with any more accuracy than Zadkiel prophesies the events of next year." The justice of these comments depends upon what is meant by "weather forecasts." If the term is to be taken to cover prognostications of the weather for a period of some months' duration the work might well, as our contemporary suggests, be abandoned, but forecasts for a few days ahead can now be made with tolerable accuracy and they prove very useful, not only to shipping, but also on shore. With the progress of the science of meteorology it may become possible to give a forecast of the general character of each season as it arrives, and it would undoubtedly be useful if Dr. DOBERCK could tell us, say in June, whether the rainfall for the season was likely to be scanty or abundant, so that the water consumption might be regulated in accordance with the probable supply; but the failure of the Indian prognostication shows how impossible any such achievement is in the present state of the science of meteorology.

THE GRANITE DRESSING NUISANCE.

In reference to the granite dressing case tried at the Police Court on Saturday, by a regulation made under Ordinance 10 of 1872 dressing granite or other stone within the city of Victoria is declared a nuisance "when such dressing could have been executed at the quarry without rendering the granite or other stone liable to injury during its transport to the place where it is required for use." The only question for the Magistrate to decide, therefore, was whether the stone if dressed at the quarry would have been liable to injury during transport. Mr. TOOKER said it would. On the other hand it is matter of common knowledge that dressed stone is frequently carried for long distances in the ordinary course of trade. The canopy for the Queen's statue, for instance, the stone of which is more liable to injury than granite, was transported from England to Hongkong.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

MANY PRIARS MURDERED.

NAMELESS ATROCITIES COMMITTED.

The difficulty of obtaining information concerning the rebellion in the Philippines is daily becoming greater. Most people who are in possession of important facts decline to impart them, having doubtless received injunctions not to let out a single word. We have, however, been able to gather from various reliable sources additional particulars which no doubt could be considerably augmented if such a general secrecy was not being observed. It is thought there are between fifteen to twenty thousand rebels in possession of Cavite and it is in that province that the most startling events happen. The convent which was captured by the natives seems to have been a centre of much bloodshed. Many friars were killed there, and the details concerning the murders are of the most awful description and emphasise in a terrible manner the intense hatred the natives have for the priests. It has been a common occurrence after a priest has been

murdered for his body to be smothered with kerosine oil and then set fire to, and there are stories that priests have been fastened to trees alive and then roasted to death. Atrocities of the most diabolical kind have been committed, one form of torture being to cut a priest to death bit by bit, while the others are too revolting in their nature to even hint at. Dead bodies of friars have been seen floating down the river and the number of the murdered victims has been estimated at as high a figure as a hundred. Allowances must, however, be made for the exaggeration which almost invariably accompanies panic.

In Manila and the surrounding districts there has been much activity on the part of the Spanish authorities, but the town has been free from any conflict up to the present and it is considered to be safe from attack. Between eight and nine hundred volunteers have been enrolled and a few days ago they were presented with their colours by Governor-General Blanco, a good enough indication that the rumour about his disappearance was false. The gates of the city are strongly guarded day and night and many people whose homes are just outside the walls seek refuge at night within the city boundaries. Almost daily rich natives are being thrown into prison on suspicion that they are implicated in the insurrectionary movement and are supplying the rebels with funds. Some of them have been released, but in the majority of cases they are still kept under detention. The whole of their books and papers are thoroughly examined by Spanish officials and their property, including money in the bank, confiscated. These extreme measures have proved fruitful, inasmuch as incriminating papers have been discovered which clearly show that the natives had carefully planned all the various details of the rebellion and had gone so far as to appoint the numerous officers of the proposed republic. Pedro Roxas, who escaped in a Spanish steamer some days ago, was, it is said, to have been the President, and in rather a long list all the names of the elected military officers were given. Four prisoners were one day taken into the market place of Manila and shot in the back as traitors. Three of them died immediately, but there were signs of life in the fourth man and another volley of bullets was poured into his body. All the four died very heroically, particularly one man. It was proved that he had given assistance to the rebels and right up to the moment of being shot he boasted of his connection with the movement and seemed to think he was dying a glorious death. He was a rich man and owned a rope manufactory somewhere in the neighbourhood of the city.

The reinforcements from Spain are expected to arrive on the 28th inst., but before they can get into action the whole country may be in the hands of the rebels, who are getting stronger in numbers and better supplied with arms every day. On one occasion they broke into a police station in Cavite, murdered some Spaniards there, and captured all the guns and ammunition in the place. They still hold the convent and a fort, but it is not considered likely that they can force the Spanish soldiers in the arsenal to surrender. The Spaniards have now taken means to make the arsenal more impregnable to an attack. It runs at right angles to a narrow strip of land projecting from the mainland of the province and formerly the sea bounded it on three sides. Now a cutting has been made, so that the stronghold is entirely surrounded by water, the only means of communication with the land being a bridge which has been thrown across and which can be drawn in at a moment's notice. The Spanish warships are all on the coast of Cavite, but the troops have not yet ventured into the interior, except for reconnoitring. It was at first arranged to make an onslaught on the rebels there, but the order was withdrawn at the last moment, the Spanish officers not having sufficient confidence in the loyalty of the native soldiers. On all sides it is considered that no reliance can be placed on the native troops. They are wavering now and the least thing may cause them to turn on the Spaniards and throw in their lot with the rebels. Such an event would not cause the least surprise in Manila. Many of the rebels are armed with German repeating rifles and it is now rumoured

that a shipload of arms has been sent from Japan, as well as a few hundred Japanese soldiers who are anxious to see more bloodshed. What truth there is in this extraordinary rumour it is impossible to say, but many people in Manila are inclined to believe it, and further put forth the supposition that these auxiliaries will be landed on the coast of Luzon and brought up to Manila at a favourable opportunity.

It is comforting to know that the British residents in Manila are safe. The *Redpole* is anchored in the bay about two miles away from the town, in deference to the wishes of the Governor-General, who has intimated to the British authorities that should the British residents be in the least danger they will send immediately for the *Redpole*. Some people strongly deprecate this action on the part of the Governor-General and they further state that the gunboat would have the greatest difficulty in reaching the town and much loss of time would be the result. They are of opinion that the *Redpole* should be anchored in the anchorage reserved for merchant steamers.

We take the following items from the Manila papers:—

In one issue of the *Comercio* the names are given of twenty-two persons who had been imprisoned that day awaiting trial by Court Martial. The list includes the names of four doctors, one dentist, two chemists, four lawyers, a retired lieutenant, and three proprietors, besides tradesmen and others.

A Cavite letter of the 15th September stated that the gunboat *Leyte* had that day bombarded the village of Ternate and the neighbouring coast, and it is said the rebels had sixty killed. When a gunboat approaches any point on the coast rockets are sent up by those on shore to warn other places. The main body of the rebels in the province of Cavite is said to be concentrated at Ternate. Shells were also being thrown amongst the rebel forces at Noveleta and Old Cavite. On the isthmus joining the town of Cavite to the province the military engineers were throwing up fortifications as a protection against an attack by the rebels. In the town of Cavite itself confidence was being restored and many European families who had taken refuge in the arsenal or elsewhere were returning to their own homes. The supply of provisions was becoming more regular and abundant. On the 17th September a reconnaissance on the rebels' position at Noveleta was made by a body of artillery supported by a company of engineers. The troops were opposed by a body of rebels numbering twelve hundred, but they attained their objective and then returned to Cavite without being again molested. The *Leyte* supported the operation with her fire and the rebels lost heavily, being seen to carry off many wounded. The Government forces had eight wounded, but six of them only slightly.

As to the other provinces, although most of them are reported quiet, considerable alarm continues to exist. The following items give some idea of the position of affairs. At Mindoro, in order to be prepared for all eventualities, the Spaniards had formed themselves into a volunteer corps and had been provided with arms. At Iloilo and Albay volunteer corps had also been formed. The Governor of Nueva Ecija telegraphed that in an encounter on the 16th September five of the rebels were killed by the civil guard. A later telegram from the same province says that a body of rebels which had arrived at the village of Anao had been reported to be five hundred strong, but in reality numbered only a hundred, and they were being pursued by the troops. From the province De la Laguna the Governor reported that everything was quiet, and he was confident it would so continue, but nevertheless twenty-six priests had come in from the various villages of the province to the convent of the principal town. On the 9th September, at Lian, Batangas, a hacienda belonging to the Real Colegio de San José was attacked by a rebel force numbering between a hundred and fifty and two hundred. A strong defence was made, with the result that after two hours and a half of fighting the rebels had to draw off with several wounded. The defenders sustained no loss.

The Manila *Gaceta* publishes the following decree by the Governor-General:—Manila, 18th

September, 1896. Sr. D. Francisco L. Roxas, honorary Councillor of the Administration, having been prosecuted at law, in the exercise of the powers vested in me I decree that he shall cease the exercise of his functions, without prejudice to any resolution that may hereafter be adopted by His Majesty's Government, which will be duly announced.

A Madrid telegram of the 14th September states that the Council of Ministers at a meeting held that day had decided to open an unlimited credit on the Spanish Treasury for the requirements of the Philippines.

A telegram of the 15th September announces the departure of the steamer *Antonio Lopez* with fifteen hundred troops on board.

The steamer *Cataluna*, for Manila with troops, passed Aden on the 15th September. The *Monserat*, also with troops, passed the Canal on the same day.

A Madrid telegram of the 17th September states that three more battalions had already been organised and would be despatched for the Philippines the moment the authorities asked for them.

The mail steamer *Isla de Luzon* left Barcelona on the 18th September with troops.

Dr. Rizal was, according to the *Times of Ceylon*, a passenger under custody from Manila for Madrid by the Spanish mail steamer *Isla de Panay*. It is said that according to his own account he had been induced to go on board by the Philippine authorities under the impression that in Spain the Spanish Government intended giving him a lucrative appointment in Cuba, whereas the officers of the ship declared him to be a rebel and a man likely to be sadly disappointed once he reached Spain, and they also stated that there were other rebels following by a later ship to also stand their trial at home. He appeared, however, to be under no restraint on board, but he was presumably closely watched. The *Isla de Panay* left Manila about the 3rd September, nearly a fortnight after the discovery of the conspiracy. Some surprise is expressed by our Colombo contemporary at Dr. Rizal being sent to Spain instead of being dealt with locally, but the explanation of that might be that the Government hope to be able to obtain evidence from him against the conspirators in Madrid.

AFFAIRS IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

TAIPEI, 18th September.

While in Changwha and before the opening of the Court I asked permission to visit the quarters where the Chinese prisoners were confined. Consent was willingly given and Mr. Hamasaki the Prosecutor for the State, kindly accompanied me. On arriving I found one of the large yamens had been converted into a prison, several large buildings being occupied by the prisoners and their guards. The central and largest building, which consisted of the ordinary centre structure of most yamens, had two large rooms open to the large passage way which runs through the centre. These were occupied by the prisoners, the open sides having been barred with bamboos reaching to the roof.

Every prisoner was provided with a straw mat to sleep upon, also with blue Chinese garments, which are changed when becoming dirty. They are obliged to take a bath daily and are also given exercise.

Sixty-two prisoners were here confined, with the exception of three or four rich, who had been removed to special quarters provided for them, where they were given special care even to the addition of condensed milk to their rations as recommended by the doctor in charge. For the care of the prison and its occupants twenty men had been detailed, besides two police officers.

Although roughly prepared the place made comfortable quarters; cleaner, cooler, and with more fresh air, and better food and clothes than the prisoners ever had at home.

Mr. Hamasaki had previously stated that he took great interest in the prisoners, which remark was rather substantiated by the welcome they gave him as we entered. With one accord they all set up a most melancholy howl and falling down on the floor, with means and

groans and frantic gestures, these unfortunates pleaded for release. My companion had a kind word for all, and although it was spoken in a language strange to them it seemed to satisfy, for they settled back on their mats resigned to their fate.

One wonders, now that the Court has sentenced several prisoners to long terms, what the authorities will do to provide prisons for them. The quarters they now occupy are all right for summer, in fact better by far than most foreign prisons would be, but during the cold and stormy months of winter they would be very cold and unhealthy. Although, when one thinks of the miserable way these natives live in their own homes, perhaps even then, the prisons would be preferable. However, a good prison must be built at some day for offenders among the Japanese themselves, and we cannot help but feel that if it existed now and some of the coolies who run loose were behind its walls it would be a great gain to the community throughout the island.

The Customs have purchased a revenue cutter, that a better look out may be kept for smugglers.

The Chinese running junks have been having considerable fun with the Formosa Government. The foreign trade of the island is expected to pass through the four open ports, Tamsui, Kelung, Anping, and Takow, and of course as mainland Chinese are now foreigners they were subject to the same restrictions. Lokang (Rokko) and Cheung-kong were two ports opened for the benefit of Japanese subjects, which of course included the Formosa natives, and a lively junk trade existed with this mainland. There has been smuggling going on and the authorities found it difficult to catch a hold of the offending parties. After the opening of these two ports mentioned the shipping owned by Formosa natives increased with such great rapidity that it was but a very short time before the whole trade seemed to be in the hands of the Formosans. But not for long. An investigation yielded the information desired. The mainland Chinese had found it not unharmonious with their ideas of patriotism to become Formosa subjects as they neared the island, and were not opposed to even flying a Japanese flag on their craft if necessary. The result was that these tricksters, who usually seem to know "where they are" partook with thanks of the privileges given to Formosans when in the island, and of course likewise of the privileges that were to be secured in their own country. It led to the Governor issuing a set of regulations which will put an end to this easy shift of nationality. Reviewing them I extract and give as follows the more important points:—

Owners of junks shall register them at the local Government Office and apply for a licence.

Should junks be built or procured in any other place than in the place of registration, they shall be subject to a temporary registration and a temporary licence will be issued. Within half a year commencing from the day on which the temporary licence is issued they must apply to the local government for the permanent licence and be subject to another form of registration.

When the details mentioned in the licence have been altered, or the licence lost or injured, a new one will be issued by the local government.

When the ownership of junks has been transferred, or junks have been injured, i.e. sunk, or in anyway become useless, report shall be made of the same to the local government, and the licence returned.

If the owner does not reside in the place of registration, an agent should be stationed there and his appointment reported to the government.

Applicant for a licence shall pay one yen. For rewriting a licence fifty sen.

Junks plying along the coast of the island shall report their departures and arrivals to the Customs or their branches, and in case neither exist to the gendarmes or police officers.

There is the usual inspection to be made by Custom officers, etc., as to the passengers, crew, cargo, destination, etc., after which a certificate is issued which is to be presented by the holder upon his arrival at other ports.

Those who ply their junks while unprovided with a licence or who purchase, sell, lend, or borrow a licence or who violate the articles of these regulations shall incur a fine not exceeding twenty-five yen.

These regulations shall come into force on and after the first of October 1896.

There still exists a discrepancy between the purchasing value of the yen paper and the yen silver, paper money being at a discount of about one per cent.

The amount to be exchanged monthly has been fixed by the Government at 197,000 yen, to be distributed as follows:—

Taipei 65,000 yen; Kelung, 15,000 yen; Taichun 24,000 yen; Kanglee 12,000 yen; Tainan 48,000 yen; Fungshan 18,000 yen; Pescadores 6,000 yen.

There seems to have been considerable written by one or two correspondents, especially by one contributor to a Shanghai journal, regarding the inactivity of the Japanese in introducing improvements. Just exactly what these correspondents expect when it is taken into consideration that it is not yet a year that the Japanese have been in actual possession of the island, is difficult to conceive. Perhaps it would have given their statements more force if they had dwelt on the early days of some other colonies, that a precedent might be established. The 900,000 yen that is being spent in improving the old Chinese railway line brings forth only sneers, and the several hundred miles of splendid road that has been built by the engineers throughout the country, the narrow gauge line, and the improvements at Taichun are not mentioned. Verily, Japan has a difficult task if she pleases all her critics in Formosa.

Mr. Ishiguro, harbour engineer; Mr. Ishibashi, light house engineer; Prof. W. K. Burton, sanitary engineer, and their assistants have returned to Japan after many weeks of hard labour at their professional duties. Prof. Burton has the plans to produce for water-works and sewerage at Taipei, Hobe, Kelung, Taichung, and cities in the south, and will return in a few months, to continue his investigations, after which the work of construction will be pushed rapidly forward.

Mr. Paul Schabert, of the firm of A. Butler & Co., collected nearly \$400 in subscriptions for the *Ilis* fund. The foreign residents of the north of the island will long remember the plucky action of the little gunboat during the troubles with the Chinese soldiers at Tamsui last year.

As showing the anxiety of the Government to do all they can to bring themselves into closer contact with the past condition of this island and the wants of the natives, I may mention that they have appointed Dr. Wykeham Myers to a post of importance and there is no doubt the authorities will avail themselves to the full of that gentleman's long experience in Formosa.

Not the least of Dr. Myers' duties will continue to be in the medical line, and it is to be hoped that he may be able to continue his investigations and observations on the somewhat unique but none the less important type of malarial disease which at present proves to be the source of so much anxiety and suffering. Dr. Myers' headquarters as at present fixed will be Takow, but of course he will be available for service wherever required.

I am glad to hear that the Japanese authorities have at last decided that the various missionary chapels which have been occupied from time to time as the exigency arose are to be permanently vacated. It must be admitted that they have taken full advantage of the mission hospitality and kindness, and it is certainly full time to grant that which Church routine requirements undoubtedly call for, and if there are any claims for damages done to the buildings during the occupation they will be made good at once.

JAMES W. DAVIDSON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Anping, 19th September.

The following account of a recent journey to the camphor districts will be of interest to your readers and will show how far Japanese statements can be relied upon in matters connected with the interior of Formosa. Accord-

ing to the Japan press, order has been restored and the camphor trade resumed. It is perhaps only fair to surmise that the Japanese authorities were led to believe this themselves, since they were willing to grant passports to foreigners. What the real condition of affairs is will be gathered from the following notes, written by a foreigner connected with the camphor business, who had the courage to make personal investigation as soon as his Consul could obtain the requisite pass from the authorities at Tainan.

Provided with a passport I started from Anping on the morning of the 6th September, taking with me my Chinese servant, twelve load carriers, five chair coolies, and provisions for one month. That same evening I reached Sinia, where I rested for the night. Avoiding Kagee I arrived in the evening of the 7th at Tainan, a rather large village situated a little to the west of the military road. Here I was informed that the gendarmes had suddenly left the place about two months ago. The village being hidden in a bamboo grove, neither the Japanese force nor rebels entered the place during the late disturbances, but the inhabitants were afraid that the rebels might come down from the hills at any moment with the object of looting, as they are reported to be in want of funds in order to carry on the rebellion. I left this place at an early hour on the 8th, and at 7.30 a.m. reached Toapohuah, where I was stopped by a Japanese sentry. On exhibiting my passport I was allowed to pass. Toapohuah, formerly a large and important village, is now entirely in ruins, having been burnt by the Japanese. Some thirty Chinese have returned and are living in the ruins, but the inhabitants are in the mountains, being afraid to return. At 9.30 a.m. I stopped at another important village called Talibu, where a few gendarmes are stationed. This place is also in ruins and entirely deserted by the people. I was told that from these two villages four to five thousand inhabitants escaped to the hills and are now afraid to venture back. At 11.45 a.m. I reached Taulak, a flourishing market town when I passed through it about two months ago. Now the place is in absolute ruin; a few Chinese of the lowest class have ventured to return. The yamen where the Japanese officials used to reside was burnt by the rebels, but the other houses in the town were destroyed by the Japanese when they recaptured the place. A few hundred soldiers are garrisoned here and all the roads by which the town is approached are fortified and closely guarded. At noon I called at the Prefecture and was most politely received by the sub-Prefect, who was, however, reluctant to allow me to proceed to my destination, Hoonim, on the ground that Taulak was the last place on this road considered safe for travellers. After some delay he decided to let me proceed, taking the precaution, however, to give me a guard. We started at 2.45 p.m. On the road to Hoonim we passed three big villages, Kiukiongnah, Sialinpan, and Nalai. All these places were partially destroyed and entirely deserted. This is the district where the atrocities were committed by the Japanese soldiers, and I tried to get information from the few people who were about, but all seemed to be too much afraid to speak. At Sialinpan, however, I was told by an old woman, who had been an eyewitness and whose husband was killed at the time, that when the Japanese entered the place they ordered the people to boil rice for them. After finishing their meal the soldiers said *tonia* (thank you) and then commenced an indiscriminate slaughter of the people. About 150 were killed and the village destroyed. The same cruelties appear to have been committed at all the villages and hamlets east of the road leading to the foot of the mountain range. At 7 p.m. I was about five li distant from Hoonim, and it was so dark that my coolies could not proceed. I therefore went alone to Hoonim to procure torches. Eventually the whole party of us got into the town. I found the door of our hong barricaded, but succeeded in forcing an entrance. On the 9th at 8 a.m. I called upon the officer in command of the garrison, who was very polite and kind. He strongly advised me to withdraw at once, as he could not guarantee my safety owing to the threatening attitude of the rebels; Hoonim being surrounded by a cordon of sentries, it

would not be possible for me to go outside the fortifications, and that as soon as order could be restored merchants would be notified and business in camphor recommenced. Under these circumstances it was, of course, useless for me to remain and I decided to return to Anping at once. I found all the furniture in our hong smashed and several boxes of camphor missing. The commanding officer afforded me every assistance in protecting the house and the camphor stored there, and I made preparations to start. During my short stay at Hoonim I found that one street had been burnt by the rebels. Nearly every house, excepting the foreign hong, is occupied by soldiers. About two hundred Chinese, of the lowest coolie class, have returned, but the inhabitants of this once flourishing town are camping in the surrounding mountains. These unfortunate people, men, women, and children, are without shelter, with of course little or no food. My journey back was accomplished with comparative ease, but it was most difficult to obtain food for my men, and at Hoonim even it was almost impossible to get them anything to eat.

Anping, 17th September.

The compradore reported in my last as having been arrested at Hoonim has been released by the military authorities. Some of the camphor, so long detained at Chipchip and Hoonim, is on its way to Anping, but it seems absolutely impossible to make fresh contracts, and business in this article may now be considered as at an end, for the time being, as far as South Formosa is concerned.

Disquieting rumours are current as to the intention of the rebels, and the position of the unfortunate refugees becomes more distressing every day. Foreign intervention is undoubtedly the only remedy, and it is to be hoped that the Japanese Government will generously come forward and entertain such proposals as may lead to the return of the many thousands now in captivity.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the Committee held at the Chamber Rooms, on the 24th September, Present:—Messrs. A. McConachie (Chairman), J. J. Bell-Irving, N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE COMMITTEE.

Read letter from Mr. G. B. Dodwell, dated 21st September, announcing his departure from the colony and tendering his resignation.

It was resolved to defer filling vacancy to next meeting.

NOMINATION OF MEMBER FOR SEAT AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Correspondence in connection with the nomination of Mr. T. H. Whitehead for appointment to the Legislative Council laid on table.

NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs. Wieler & Co., Hartigan, Stedman & Rennie, M. S. Sassoon & Co., Harvie & Co., The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, Mr. H. L. Dennys, and Mr. W. Danby were elected members of the Chamber.

THE INCREASE IN TELEGRAPH RATES.

Read letters from M. Rolland, President Saigon Chamber, dated 1st September, acknowledging Chamber's letter of 7th August, and promising to keep Chamber advised of any developments in Indo-China. Also letter from Singapore Chamber, dated 28th August, acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of 14th idem enclosing copy of protest. Also letter from Shanghai Chamber, dated 4th September, owning receipt of Chamber's letter of 14th August and copy of protest, and enclosing copies of further correspondence on the subject.

Read letter from Acting Manager, Joint Telegraph Companies, dated 16th Sept., regarding the acceptance of Chinese telegrams at half rates. A formal acknowledgment had been sent on the 17th Sept. It was considered unnecessary to further reply to the letter at present. Opinion was adverse to the explanation in the Telegraph Companies' letter, which was regarded as unsatisfactory.

Copies of report of proceedings at the special general meeting held on the 19th Sept. to protest against the increase in telegraph rates were laid on the table.

Resolved to have further copies printed and to forward them to the local Government, Foreign Office, British Minister at Peking, the Telegraph Cos. to all the Chambers in the East, to the principal British Chambers those of Canada, United States, Australia, Germany, and other Continental countries, to all the Foreign Consuls, &c.

IMPORT DUTIES IN CHINA.

Copy of a letter addressed by the Shanghai Branch to the Hongkong Branch of the China Association, dated 4th Sept., in reference to the above question, had been kindly furnished by the Hon. Secretary, it being the expressed intention to send copies of the minutes of proceedings to the Chamber. These had not yet arrived; but it was decided to write and express the readiness of the Chamber to co-operate with the Shanghai Chamber and the China Association in this matter.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

Read letter from Sir Claude MacDonald, dated 4th Sept., acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of the 4th August, inquiring if any progress had been made in the negotiations with the Chinese Government re the opening of the West River, in which His Excellency states that negotiations are still in progress in London.

(Correspondence)

THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
22nd August, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to remind you that the Hon. T. H. Whitehead's term of appointment as a member of the Legislative Council of this colony expires on the 19th proximo, and to enquire what are the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce with respect to the appointment of a member of the Chamber to a seat in the Legislative Council. I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
28th August, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst. reminding the Chamber that the term of the Hon. T. H. Whitehead's appointment as a member of the Legislative Council expires on the 19th proximo, and asking to be informed of the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce with respect to the appointment.

I am instructed to thank you for the reminder, and to say the same course as that adopted on previous occasions will be pursued, when the result will be promptly communicated to the Government. I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
19th September, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to advise you for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that at a Special General Meeting of the Chamber, held to-day at 11.15 a.m., Mr. Thomas Henderson Whitehead, Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, was again selected as their nominee for the seat in the Legislative Council rendered vacant by the expiry of his first term of appointment.

I now beg to hand you the following papers in connection with the nomination:—

- 1.—A copy of the notice convening the meeting.
 - 2.—A list of the members present at the meeting.
 - 3.—The name of the candidate, with names of his proposer and seconder.
- I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

A. MCCONACHIE,
Chairman.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

THE INCREASE OF CABLE RATES.
The Eastern Extension The Great Northern
Australasia and China Telegraph Company
Telegraph Company, of Copenhagen
Limited.

Hongkong Station
16th September, 1896.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary Hong-
kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—As there seems to be some misunder-
standing regarding the acceptance of Chinese
telegrams at half rates, it may be convenient to
place it on record, for the information of the
Chamber, that it is confined to local telegrams
only, that is, between stations in China or be-
tween China and Hongkong, and does not
apply to international correspondence.

It is open to Chinese to use foreign languages
and codes, in which case their telegrams are
charged at full rates, but, as is well known, the
only way in which a telegram can be trans-
mitted in Chinese is by the cumbersome but the
only possible system of numbering the char-
acters. These are limited to ten thousand for
the purpose of telegraphy, which practically
means that the bulk of such telegrams are in
plain language—a sufficiently heavy penalty.

For this reason the Chinese Telegraph
Administration, when it commenced operations
in 1883, admitted, and still admits, over all its
lines local Chinese correspondence at half rates,
provided the telegram is compiled from the list
of characters published by the Administration
for the purpose. The Cable Companies there-
fore, unless they desired to debar themselves
from carrying this traffic, have been obliged to
adopt the same system on their cables for such
local native correspondence.—I am, sir, your
obedient servant,

J. M. BECK.
Acting Manager.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
17th September, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of yesterday date, and will lose no
time in placing same before my Committee.—I
am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

J. M. Beck, Esq., Acting Manager, Eastern
Extension and Great Northern Telegraph
Co.

CHINESE TARIFF REVISION.

China Association,
Shanghai, 4th Sept., 1896.

F. Henderson, Esq.

Hon. Secretary, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—You will no doubt have observed
a telegram through Reuter's Agency received
here on the 4th August to the effect that Lord
Salisbury had resolved, before expressing any
opinion in regard to the proposed increase of
the Customs tariff, to consult the principal
Chambers of Commerce in China. The local
Committee here thought it advisable, under the
circumstances, to take the Committee of the
Shanghai Chamber into their confidence and
explain the action taken here and in Hongkong
in response to Mr Gundry's inquiries embodied
in his telegram of 17th July and letters and
memoranda of previous dates.

The two Committees met on the 2nd inst.,
when the situation was thoroughly discussed,
with the result that the Chamber of Commerce
wholly endorsed the suggestions made by the
Hongkong and Shanghai Committees of the
China Association, and requested this branch
to forward the following telegram to London:—

"Referring previous telegrams notify For-
eign Office Chamber of Commerce entirely
concur views Shanghai Hongkong Com-
mittees Cotton Mills claim terms Japanese
Treaty provided raw cotton totally free all
exactions with native mills same basis."

This message has been forwarded to-day.

It was understood at the meeting of the two
Committees that copies of the minutes of the
proceedings would be forwarded to the Hong-
kong Chamber of Commerce, and I presume
they will be sent by this mail. In any case the
Shanghai Committee believe that you will
materially strengthen the situation by confer-
ring with the Hongkong Chamber and acquaint-
ing the General Committee in London with
the result by telegraph.—I am, dear sir,

W. H. TALBOT,
Hon. Secretary.

THE WEST RIVER.

Peking, September 4th, 1896.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your
letter of the 4th August requesting further
information with regard to negotiations with
the Chinese Government in reference to the
opening of the West River.

In reply I beg to state that negotiations are
still in progress in London on the point.

All necessary information, charts, etc., re-
specting the river and the inland waterways
of the Two Kwang Provinces, is now in this
Legation, and I expect detailed instructions from
home very shortly to commence negotiations.—
I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of
Commerce, Hongkong.

TRADE STATISTICS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
21st August, 1896.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your
letter of the 13th inst. on the subject of the
statistics of trade included in the Harbour
Master's report.

In reply, I am directed by my Committee
to state that they would, were it possible to
obtain trustworthy and exact figures, be only
too glad to accede to the request made to afford
information to the Harbour Master to enable
him to render his returns more accurate. They
are, however, only in a position to criticize from
the knowledge possessed by certain members of
certain imports; the exact figures are not in
the possession of the Chamber any more than
they are of the Harbour Master. Had they
felt justified in offering such assistance
the Committee would have preferred to tender
it rather than to assume the much less pleasing
office of critic.—I have the honour to be, sir,
your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial
Secretary.

SUPREME COURT.

28th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

TONG WONG CHIU v. CHEUNG KAM TIN AND
CHAN KING PO.

The plaintiff applied for an interim injunction
against the defendants to restrain them from
excavating and laying drains on plaintiff's
property. The plaintiff is the owner of sub-
section 1 of section 6 of Inland lot 62 and
occupies 6, Pak Chi Lane. The defendant,
Cheung Kam Tin, is compradore to Messrs.
Meyer & Co., and Chan King Po is a
contractor.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr.
Bowley, of Mr. Dennys's office), appeared for
the plaintiff and said the defendants did not
appear. Only the second defendant had been
served with the writ of summons; the other
was said to be absent from the colony. Mr. Francis then read the notice of motion, the
sections of the Ordinance relating to the case,
and an affidavit filed by the plaintiff. The
affidavit stated that the plaintiff owned three
houses in Pak Chi Lane, in one of which he
resided. On the N.E. side there was an open
space or court belonging to the plaintiff and
abutting on it were three houses in Gage Street
belonging to the defendants, who were entitled
to a right of way in, over, upon, and along the
N.E. part of the space. On Friday, the 18th
September, the defendants entered into the
open space and wrongfully erected scaffolding
thereon. On Sunday, the 20th, they broke up
the surface of the court and dug a trench
for the purpose of laying drains to drain
defendants' houses. On the 24th they placed
drain pipes down and so hindered the plaintiffs
in the ingress and egress of his premises.
Since the 24th no work had been done by the
defendants.

His Lordship—The defendants commenced
work on the 18th and nothing was done by the
plaintiff until the 24th?

Mr. Francis.—The delay in taking action was
caused by the difficulty there always is in
getting Chinamen to understand their rights
and the position in which they stand. They
have to turn over things in their mind before
they consult a solicitor and they have no com-
prehension to apply to the Court for an
immediate injunction.

Continuing, Mr. Francis said in the action
the plaintiff claims \$1,000 damages against
the defendants for wrongfully entering the
plaintiff's land and excavating and laying drains
therein, and secondly the plaintiff sued for an
injunction restraining the defendants or their
agents from continuing the work. He also
claimed his costs.

Evidence was given of the service of the
writ on the second defendant.

His Lordship ordered an injunction against
the second defendant to issue in the terms of
the notice of motion and to last until the hear-
ing of the suit or until a further order was
made.

THE LAST OF LAI MIT.

On the afternoon of the 23rd September
Lai Mit, who shot a Hongkong lukong
dead in a lane some Sundays ago, was
beheaded at Kowloon City. Since the arrest
of the criminal at Nam Tau considerable
interest has been manifested in the date of the
execution, many people wishing to satisfy an
unconquerable and morbid desire to witness the
punishment of death by decapitation as inflicted
according to Chinese custom. The date of
the execution was not known in Hongkong
until Monday morning, but the announcement
we made yesterday was sufficiently in time to
enable upwards of a hundred residents to
journey over to Kowloon City to view the
proceedings. Early in the morning In-
spector Stanton went to Nam Tau to
see that no counterfeit of Lai Mit was handed
over for execution, but although the In-
spector arrived at the district magis-
trate's yamen at six o'clock it was not until
half-past ten that the prisoner was taken on
board a war junk. He was penned in a small
wooden crate, so small that he had to remain
squatting all the time, and, as an additional
precaution against escape, his hands were
firmly bound with a strong cord and his feet
with a heavy iron chain. The junk, which had
to be towed, was expected to arrive at Kow-
loon City about one o'clock, and at that
time everything was in readiness to receive the
mandarins who were accompanying the party.
A host of miserably clad and undisciplined
"braves," many of whom looked almost as
ancient as the muzzle-loading guns which they
were armed with, were drawn up in as straight
a line as they could get themselves in; various
flags were hoisted at the fort and on three
or four junks; hundreds of Chinese loitered
around in hungry expectation of what was to
happen, and the Europeans who had ventured
over whiled away the weary time as best they
could. It was not until ten minutes past three
that the junk was sighted, a fact which was
made known by the loud boom of a rusty cannon.
About twenty minutes later the junk arrived
at the pier, salutes were exchanged and gongs
beaten, and a big crowd assembled on the spot
where the execution was to take place, a few
soldiers in the centre of a horseshoe-shaped
space being present to give dignity to the
proceedings and to keep order. But the
spectators had a long time to wait.
Various officials had to pay their respects
to the Nam Tau district magistrate,
who was on the launch and who superintended
the carrying out of the execution, and the
ceremonies occupied a long time, during which
the prisoner was transferred to the launch.
It was probably a surprise to him to find
that he was at Kowloon City, as in order to
prevent him from biting his tongue and so
bleeding to death, he had been informed in
the morning that he was going to Canton
to be re-tried. He appeared to be quite
unconcerned at his approaching fate and
greedily drank a pot of samshu which was
given to him. When a few indigestible cakes
were handed to him, but these he did not
seem to relish; at any rate he ate them slowly
and guardedly. It was getting on for half-past

four when the procession was formed at the pier, the high officials being carried in chairs and the prisoner in the wooden cage. At the fort the officials branched off to pay a visit and the prisoner was taken further along, when he was taken out of the cage and then, supported by a couple of men, he walked to the place of execution. His hands had by this time been fastened behind at the wrists and when the executioner told him to kneel down he instantly obeyed. There was still a further delay, as somebody who had to give the final order had not yet arrived. It was nearly ten minutes before he appeared on the scene and all that time the condemned man remained kneeling and with his head slightly lowered. He was quite cool and wore a defiant look, and two or three times, as a variation to the filthy language he used, he told the executioner that he was not afraid, but hoped the knife would cut cleanly. The executioner while waiting carried the knife, a heavy, razor-edged instrument, behind his right arm, and occasionally turned to Lai Mit and told him to keep his body and his head bent. At length, at 4.40, the final order was given and with one blow the executioner slashed off the murderer's head, which rolled a few inches away. A volley was fired and then the cords binding the wrists were cut, the body, which had fallen forward in a heap, was straightened, and the head unceremoniously placed between the shoulders. The crowd pressed closer to the body and then slowly dispersed, having witnessed a most repulsive sight, but one which we suppose will always have a magnetic effect even on the most sensitive people.

THE JAPANESE MINISTRY.

Count Matsukata was appointed Prime Minister of Japan on the 18th inst., in addition to his office of Minister of Finance, and on the 22nd inst. Count Okuma was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

It is currently reported that His Lordship the Chief Justice had a narrow escape on Saturday night of falling into the hands of the Police.

The equivalent in Chinese for the Chief Justice is, we are informed, "the Chief Hang Man." Had His Lordship unfortunately come to grief in his wanderings on the Peak on Saturday between 6 and 11 p.m. would any Chinese vocalist have favoured us with Sullivan's beautiful song "The Lost Chord"?

THE GRANITE PUNCHING NUISANCE.

At the Police Court on Saturday, before Hon. Commander Hastings, a Chinese contractor in the employ of the Government was summoned for dressing granite in the public street when the work could have been done at the quarry. The summons was taken out at the instance of Mr. T. I. Rose, and he was accompanied in Court by Messrs. T. Arnold, A. G. Morris, and Captain Stopani.

The defendant in answer to the charge said the granite was dressed in the quarry, but there was a bit of redressing in order to make it suit the purpose.

Mr. Rose first of all mentioned that the work was still going on and made a great deal of noise. On the 25th inst. he saw men and women dressing the blocks in Arbuthnot Road opposite his house, 57, Wyndham Street. The work had been carried on for some time and even on Sundays the noise was as great as on week days. The blocks were in as rough a condition as when first taken from the quarry. He had seen as many as ten to twenty men and women working there. He had cautioned a man who was pointed out as the contractor and if the nuisance had ceased the summons would not have been proceeded with.

Mr. H. P. Tooker said that as the contractor was working for the Public Works Department he would like to give evidence. Mr. Tooker then got into the witness box and said the work

was being done directly under his supervision. New steps were being made for an approach to the quarters of the Captain Superintendent of Police. The steps were made of fine dressed granite and the back was filled in with concrete. The granite was cut in the quarry in short lengths—what was called rough-squared. It was impossible to dress it in the quarry further than was done because the fine edges of the granite would get broken off in transit and the blocks would come on to the ground absolutely useless. The stones had to be dressed down from an eighth to a quarter of an inch. He had cautioned the contractor not to make more noise than was absolutely necessary.

In answer to the Magistrate Mr. Tooker said the granite came from Hongham. The blocks could be rough punched at the quarry, but the noise over here would be just as bad. It was the fine punching that made the irritating noise. It would not injure the stone to bring it over rough punched. The men could not make less noise than they were at present making.

His Worship said that in the face of the expert evidence he could not convict, but he thought it was very extraordinary that rough punching made no more noise than fine punching.

Mr. Rose asked to be allowed to call expert rebutting evidence.

His Worship said he could not allow that.

Mr. Morris said he had a practical experience, and could prove that he had shipped 10,000 tons of fine-picked stone for the Manila breakwater. Some of the stones weighed three tons, and all of them were picked at the quarry. The stones in the Arbuthnot Road were in the roughest state. Mr. Tooker had given evidence because it was Government property. As a matter of fact what he said was all nonsense and if the noise could not be stopped in this way some other means would have to be adopted. The nuisance was positively unbearable. There was another point. The Government contracts said no work was to be done on Sundays, and yet these men were chipping all day on Sundays.

Mr. Tooker, in reply to the Magistrate, said it would take three weeks to complete the work. All the stone was not dressed. He first of all had it dressed further up the road near the gaol, but the Captain Superintendent of Police particularly requested the work to be done lower down as the watchman who was on night duty just outside the gaol could not sleep during the day. It was against the contractor's instructions if he worked on Sundays.

His Worship said he could not permit other evidence to be taken for the prosecution, but he would give leave for a fresh summons to be taken out.

Mr. Rose said he would take out another summons and call Mr. Danby.

Mr. Morris—In the meantime can the work be stopped?

Mr. Tooker—It would be very inconvenient to stop it.

Mr. Morris—If it is not stopped I shall go to the police and give them all in charge.

The parties then left the Court.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 24th September. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. H. B. H. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

CHOLERA AT SINGAPORE.

The Colonial Secretary at Singapore sent a return showing the number of cases of cholera that had occurred at that port between the 1st and 6th inst. Twenty-one cases were reported, fourteen of which had proved fatal.

REMUNERATION TO SANITARY INSPECTORS.

The following letter, having reference to the remuneration to be paid to the Sanitary Inspectors in consideration of extra work performed by them during the prevalence of the plague, was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,

22nd Sept., 1896.

SIR,—In reply to your letter No. 158 of the 17th inst., I am directed to inform you that in

deference to the recommendation of the Board his Excellency the Governor approves the payment of \$100 to each of the Inspectors of Nuisances and that the necessary instructions have been accordingly issued to the Colonial Treasurer.

I may add that his Excellency will not sanction any additional expenditure of this nature in future and to request you to inform the inspectors accordingly.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

THE ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.

The SECRETARY read a copy of a letter which he had addressed to the Colonial Secretary in submitting the draft of a form which the Board proposes to use in notifying persons that their dwellings are overcrowded and calling upon them to abate the same in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1887. A copy of the proposed new form was also submitted to the Acting Attorney-General for revision and amendment if necessary. The Acting Attorney-General amended the proposed notice in several details and wrote explaining the legal formulae to be observed in enforcing the notification.

The following minutes were attached:—

Mr. Ede—I think an amendment of the Ordinance should be asked for to enable the Board to abate overcrowding by some more simple and quicker procedure than that laid down by the Acting Attorney-General.

The Medical Officer of Health—I had consulted the Acting Attorney-General upon this point and received the same advice from him before this notice was submitted to him for approval. I am glad, however, to have the advice in writing and can only deplore that the Board cannot deal with overcrowding as a nuisance, as can be done at home under the Public Health Act of 1875, but must go through all these formalities and submit to the delay of at least one calendar month before it can enforce the abatement of so obvious a nuisance. I suggest that a more expeditious way of dealing with overcrowding be provided in the proposed new Health Ordinance.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—I agree with Mr. Ede.

It was resolved to close the subject for the present.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics showed a death-rate of 17.8 for the week ended 12th inst. and 15.9 for the week ended 19th inst.

THE STRIKE OF NIGHT-SOIL COOLIES.

The SECRETARY reported that that afternoon the night-soil coolies, together with Mr. Wei A Yuk, had an interview with the Registrar-General and they were told they would have to comply with the law by the 14th October. The men left the office assuring the Registrar-General that they would be at work in the usual way next morning.

Dr. CLARK said he had instructed everyone of the Sanitary Inspectors to go round to all the European houses and offices and distribute chloride of lime. The inspectors, each with a gang of coolies, had been at work the whole of Wednesday and yesterday.

The PRESIDENT said two or three people were willing to undertake the work, so that, unless the men complied with the law, their services could be dispensed with. Outside workers would doubtless have the protection of the police.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said every protection would be given by the police.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned.

According to several Spanish papers the chief leaders of the seditious agitation in the Philippines reside in Japan, whither they migrated from Hongkong after the Japanese triumph over China. They there aim at exciting the Mikado to seize the Philippines, and indeed some time ago presented his Majesty with a petition signed by twenty thousand inhabitants asking him to invade the islands. Afterwards, however, it was discovered that at least nineteen thousand of these signatures were obtained by making the natives believe they were signing a petition to the Spanish Government for a reduction of taxes.

THE OBSERVATORY REPORT FOR 1895.

The following are extracts from Dr. Doberok's annual report:—

My eleventh volume of observations and researches was published last summer and the twelfth volume is now being printed. It contains investigations of the typhoons in 1890, 1891, 1893, and 1895, which I have conducted in co-operation with Mr. Figg. Thus all the typhoons that have been observed since this Observatory was started in 1884 have now been investigated, and we are at present busy with a revision of the laws of storms on the basis of these investigations. This will probably be finished in a year, and the results can be utilised for weather-forecasts and storm-warnings in 1897 and following years.

The thanks of the Government are due to the Telegraph Companies for continuing to forward the meteorological telegrams free of charge. If paid for at the rate charged for messages with precedence urgency the cost per annum would be very great. Most important telegrams are also forwarded by the Chinese Telegraph Administration with precedence urgency and free of cost, but they are very often received too late.

The thanks of the Government are due to the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China for ordering meteorological observations to be made at the treaty ports and transmitted to this Observatory, and it is to be hoped that it may be found possible to greatly extend the number of ports from which such information is telegraphed. There exists no meteorological service in China and the information that can be collected at present is insufficient. For the issue of weather-forecasts and storm-warnings it is necessary that the China Sea should be surrounded by telegraphic reporting stations worked by trained observers supplied with accurate instruments, and reports from the north of China and stations inland in China such as the treaty ports along the Yang-tse-kiang are equally necessary.

During the past year the staffs of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company at Bolinao (Luzon) and at Sharp Peak (near Foochow) made observations at all times during the day and telegraphed them direct to Hongkong, and this frequently enabled Mr. Figg to indicate the subsequent movements of typhoons with much greater accuracy than could have been effected without that information, in the absence of which in fact many typhoons could not have been announced at all.

The China Coast Meteorological Register was printed daily at the Observatory, and information regarding storms was telegraphed to and exhibited on notice boards in Hongkong and elsewhere as often and as fully as such information could be justified by the weather telegrams received. This happened on 45 days in 1895. The red drum was hoisted 5 times, the black drum 3 times, the black south cone 5 times, the black ball 1 time, two lanterns vertically 3 times, and horizontally 1 time. The gun was fired one round in 1895. Printed expresses were circulated twice.

During 1895, in addition to meteorological registers kept at about 30 stations on shore, 1,977 ship-logs have been received, 1,708 were forwarded by captains, and 269 were copied on board ship in the harbour. The ship-logs collected in 1895 were thus distributed:—For 1893, 1 log; for 1894, 59 logs; for 1895, 1,917 logs. The total number of ships, whose log-books have been made use of, was 296. The total number of days' observations was 16,835. These data are collected, reduced, tabulated and made available for the study of typhoons and other meteorological features by Miss Doberok.

The entry of observations made at sea in degree squares for the area between 9 deg. south and 45 deg. north latitude, and between the longitude of Singapore and 180 deg. East of Greenwich for the construction of trustworthy pilot charts has been continued, and 94,322 observations in all have now been entered.

As stated in the "Instructions for making Meteorological Observations, etc.," meteorological instruments forwarded by observers who regularly send their registers to the Observatory are verified here free of cost. During the past year 4 barometers, 2 anæroids, and 76 thermo-

meters were verified. In addition several hundred barometers and anæroids on board ship were compared with our standard.

Mr. Plummer observed 514 transits in 1895, and levelled the axis of the transit instrument 181 times. Table V. shows the errors of the time-ball in 1895. The probable error was in January 0s.09, in February 0s.19, in March 0s.21, in April 0s.12, in May 0s.13, in June 0s.12, in July 0s.09, in August 0s.11, in September 0s.13, in October 0s.13, in November 0s.12, and in December 0s.11. The errors depend apparently upon the mean amount of clouds, but really upon the periods of cloudy weather when no transits can be obtained. The time-ball is not hoisted on Government holidays. It was not hoisted on the 5th February, as the reversing galvanometer was under repair; on the 29th May, as the lock was under repair, a broken spring being replaced; on the 19th of June, when Mr. Ho To-shang, Second Assistant, forgot the key of the tower; on the 28th July, owing to a strong gale; on the 14th September, when the line was interrupted, the Public Works Department making alterations; and on the 2nd and 24th November, when there was no discharge current, the fault lying with the battery. On 7 days the ball was therefore not hoisted. It was hoisted but failed to drop 5 times. On the 3rd and 28th May the failure was due to the reversing galvanometer being out of adjustment. On the 31st May the piston failed to rest on the tooth of the lock. On the 1st June the hammer spring was not pulled tight enough. On the 1st September the cause of failure is not known.

There fell only half the normal amount of rain during 1895. The excessive drought had no influence on either pressure or temperature. The relative humidity was only two per cent. less than usual. The number of hours with bright sunshine was 149 in excess. The duration of rain was 158 hours less than usual and the intensity of rain was only six-tenths of the average. The wind was normal and the cloudiness very slightly below the mean, but the level of the clouds was higher than usual. During the month of August the wind is generally very light and in consequence the daily variation in direction is great, but in 1895 the direction backed throughout the 24 hours. It probably backed most quickly about 7 or 8 a.m.

Slight shocks of earthquake were noticed on the 30th August at 5.45 p.m. and other shocks occurred during the following night.

THE HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The following is the report for the season 1895-1896:—

To the members of the Hongkong Football Club.

The Committee have the pleasure to lay before you their Report on the last Season.

The Accounts attached show a balance of \$121.53 to the credit of the Club on September 21st last.

The following record shows the results of the matches played under Association and Rugby rules:—

Association	Lost	6	Goals for	28.
	Drawn ...	6	Goals against ...	19.
	Won	9		
Rugby	Lost	0	Points for	42.
	Drawn ...	0	Points against ...	6.
	Won	6		

Eight Inter-Club matches have also been played under Association rules, and four under Rugby rules.

For specially good play in the Association matches, badges have been awarded, on the recommendation of a special Committee, to Messrs. H. R. B. Hancock, J. W. L. Oliver, and H. W. Slade; and for specially good play in the Rugby matches, caps have been awarded to Messrs. W. M. Greenfield, E. D. Sanders, J. C. Cameron, and P. G. Davies, E.A.

The Club now consists of 95 members. During the year 28 new members were elected. The season was closed by the second annual dinner at which 40 were present.

The competition inaugurated at the commencement of the season proved a great success and produced a number of highly interesting matches. It also led to the formation of some new Clubs. To facilitate the carrying out of the competition the expenses of preparing the

ground for each match was borne by this Club. This expenditure will in future be defrayed by the Clubs which enter for the competition.

The annual meeting for the purpose of receiving the Committee's report for the past season, and for electing the Committee and Officers for the forthcoming season, will be held in the Cricket Pavilion on Wednesday, Sept. 30th, at 5 p.m.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The thirtieth ordinary meeting of the China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited, was held in the Company's Offices, Queen's Road, on Saturday, at noon. Mr. J. Kramer presided; and there were also present—Messrs. St. C. Michaelson, M. D. Ezekiel and J. W. R. Taylor (Directors), W. H. Ray (Secretary), W. R. Loxley, R. M. Mehta, G. Stewart, E. K. Leigh, G. T. Veitch, G. W. F. Playfair, H. W. Slade, F. D. Goddard, J. Orange, E. T. Bond, E. C. Ray, and S. Hancock.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission I will take the report and accounts as read, and will turn to the latter, which I have little doubt you consider satisfactory. The smaller amount of premium shown this year is due to the absence of war risks, which entered largely into our transactions of the previous twelve months. Allowing for this business the premium collected is larger notwithstanding the keen competition which existed in every direction. The interest earned shows a falling off of \$7,000, the result of the lower rate at present obtainable for deposits in banks and loans on mortgage. The directors considered it advisable to realize a portion of the securities held in London and to reinvest the amount in Indian Government stock. This change resulted in a profit of \$41,000, and has also enabled the directors to recommend the increase of the reserve fund to \$1,000,000 by the transfer of \$100,000 from exchange fluctuation account, leaving a sum in that account sufficiently large to protect sterling holdings against a rise in exchange to 4/-, and this provision you will doubtless agree with me is, considering the present outlook, all that will be necessary for some little time to come. Losses, though still large, are not so great by \$130,000 as were incurred during the previous year. The net result of the twelve months' working is a balance of \$607,348.85, and the directors are pleased to be able to recommend the payment of the same general dividend of 20 per cent. (\$5 per share) as last year, the increase of the bonus to contributors of business from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., and to carry forward the sum of \$327,348.85. This apportionment, I anticipate, will have your cordial support. The mortgages held by the Company have been reviewed by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, and the properties continue to furnish ample security for the loans upon them. Nothing further calls for comment by me, but before submitting the report and accounts for approval and confirmation I shall be glad to afford any additional information that may be required.

No questions were asked, and the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Mr. LOXLEY seconded.

Carried.

Mr. STEWART moved and Mr. LEIGH seconded, the confirmation of the election of Mr. J. W. R. Taylor on the directorate in room of Mr. J. Thurburn, who had left the colony.

Carried.

Mr. BOND moved and Mr. VEITCH seconded the re-election as directors of Messrs. Kramer and Taylor.

Carried.

Captain GODDARD proposed the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries.

Mr. MEHTA seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday. I thank you for your attendance.

Mrs. Michell, mother of Mr. E. B. Michell, late of Bangkok, and of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, died recently at Rugby.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Douglas Steamship Co., Limited, was held on Saturday, at noon, at the Company's offices. Mr. J. H. Lewis presided and there were also present Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. D. R. Sassoon, A. Ross, C. A. Tomes (Consulting Committee), W. Parfitt (Secretary), V. H. Deacon (Legal Adviser), Captain Tillett, D. Gillies, A. G. Morris, G. C. Anderson, W. Parlane, Ho Fook, G. C. Cox, F. Maitland, D. E. Brown, T. F. Hough, Dr. Noble, W. Barlow, A. Coutts, A. H. Skelton, J. H. Cox, F. W. Hall, L. K. Davis, W. H. Gaskell, W. S. Bailey, and E. Jones Hughes.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and with your permission we will take them as read. Since their publication, however, a strong body of shareholders have expressed a request that in addition to the dividend a bonus also should be given; to meet their wishes, therefore, the General Managers and Consulting Committee propose the following appropriation of the net profit of \$255,327.09. To write off \$43,721.50 from the value of the Company's property (excepting the *Haimun*) on the 30th June last, being the equivalent of 8 per cent. thereon, to pay shareholders \$120,000 being a dividend of 12 per cent on the Capital, a bonus of \$2.00 per share absorbing a further \$40,000, and to transfer the balance of \$51,605.59 to the credit of reserve fund. The year under review has like the previous one been exceptionally good, and the General Managers and Consulting Committee are again fortunate in having such a substantial profit for distribution. Very serious consideration has been devoted to this important point, and we have been entirely guided in our decision by a desire to act as generously as possible to shareholders, and at the same time strengthen the Company with a view to its maintaining its position in the future as a sound, prosperous, and dividend-paying concern. When it is remembered that last year in addition to a 12 per cent. dividend a bonus of \$15 per share out of reserve was divided amongst shareholders we cannot but think that a larger distribution than now recommended would hardly be considered prudent by shareholders generally, more especially by those who hold a large stake in the Company as investors. The loss of our wharf has caused us much inconvenience, but arrangements have been made for the construction of a new iron one at an estimated cost of \$50,000. This the architects, Messrs Palmer & Turner, inform us should be completed and ready for use within twelve months from this date of Government sanction, which is expected daily, plans, &c., having been submitted in proper course. Of the funds in hand we have not yet succeeded in placing any very large amount upon first-class mortgage, the demand for the class of investment having been very great during the past twelve months, and we do not think shareholders generally would care to see their money in fluctuating stocks, especially if purchased at a high price, but no opportunity will be missed of securing safe investments, and we hope soon to have our cash assets earning at any rate more than 4 per cent. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to hear any remarks gentlemen may wish to make.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts as now presented be adopted.

Mr. D. GILLIES—Gentlemen, I beg to second the adoption of the accounts and the report, subject to the alterations just stated by the Chairman.

Carried.

Mr. D. E. BROWN proposed the re-election of the Consulting Committee—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. D. R. Sassoon, A. Ross, and C. A. Tomes.

Mr. L. K. DAVIS seconded.

Carried.

Mr. F. MAITLAND proposed the re-election of Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Gaskell as auditors.

Dr. NOBLE seconded.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you very much for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be ready on Monday and the bonus warrants on Thursday. (Applause.) I am sorry we cannot have them ready earlier.

THE PUNJOM GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of The Punjom Mining Co. Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report for August from the Manager at the mines:—

Mining.—This has continued to receive our best attention, and I am again able to report fairly good progress.

August-Shaft. 200 ft. Level.—We continue to do a good deal of work at this level and are now getting much of the ore milled from this point.

Driving on Gillies's reef has been resumed, but I regret to say the ore does not improve in value. Nor does the reef appear at all strong or well defined. The "formation" (black slate) is all one could ask for, and as we are now well up under the point where payable ore was worked near the surface, it is very disappointing to have found nothing of value.

The stopes on the N. and S. reef are giving, fairly good ore, but the ground is very hard and consequently progress is slow.

Two of the winzes coming down from the "intermediate level" have "holed," connected, and thus put the stopes on the E. and W. reef in good working order. The north drive on the course of the N. and E. reef is still in good "formation," but I regret to say it shows nothing of value.

Intermediate Level.—The stopes here have not given their usual quantity of ore this month owing to the reef having narrowed very considerably, nor has the value of the ore been equal to that won from here hitherto. This may be only temporary, however.

Good progress has been made in the drive going west off the new shaft and if nothing unusual happens, it should strike the reef within the coming month.

110 ft. Level.—The quartz found in the drive we are extending north here and reported on at the end of July turned out, as I expected, to be a floating piece of reef only. It died out early in the month and after driving about 15 ft. further we came on to what is evidently the continuation of the ore we were looking for. This ore, too, is poor so far, but I feel sure it will improve as it is opened on.

We have resumed driving the south level on the course of the N. and S. reef with the object of testing the ground under some extensive native workings seen on the surface.

New Leader.—The many points at work here have given their usual quantity of ore for the mill, but the grade has fallen off in some of them. I think this will improve again in the near future.

Drivage for the month 396 ft.; ore mined 1,100 tons, made up as follows:—August Shaft 683 tons, New Leader 417 tons.

Milling.—This was carried on during 27 days, crushing 1,100 tons, yielding 384 ozs. 4 dwts.

Calcining works ran for 27 days treating 50 tons of concentrates yielding 55 ozs. 16 dwts. of melted gold, making the total output for the month 440 ozs.

Cyanide Works.—This plant resumed work on the 5th August and is now running on ordinary tailings. We shall begin the clean-up to-morrow and hope to have it completed by about the 5th September.

General.—A great deal of work coming under this head has again been done. About 700 feet of road has been made into the jungle to reach our timber reserves. The corrugated iron apron on the main dam has been lifted, the main retaining wall raised four feet, and the apron relaid on substantial foundation timbers. The water wheel is in a forward state and will be completed within the coming month.

Labour.—This is far from plentiful.

Health.—This is again fairly good. The last case of cholera was on the 19th August, so I am hoping we have seen the last of this.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 10½ inches.

Fire.—I regret to say a serious fire occurred here to-day (31st August) by which almost the whole of the Chinese part of the camp has been destroyed. Not less than fifty houses have been burned, including nearly all the shops. Our losses consist of the cattle shed and two coolie houses, valued at about \$200.

S. C. FARNHAM & CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the fourth annual general meeting, to be held at Shanghai on Tuesday, the 29th day of September, 1896, at 5 o'clock p.m.

To the Shareholders of S. C. Farnham & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—The directors have much pleasure in submitting to you their report with statements of accounts for the year ending 30th June last.

Owing to the docks in Japan being fully engaged for Government work after the late war, the demand for docking accommodation and repairs at this port was exceptionally large during the year.

This, together with further extension of local industries, has tended to increase our gross earnings considerably, which amounted to Taels 190,708.75 more than the previous year.

Just before the rise in land your directors were fortunate in securing about 140 *mow* with about 1,100 feet frontage, adjoining Lower Dock, which they consider very satisfactory.

The net profits, after paying all charges amount to Taels 198,038.03, including Taels 7,424.48 carried forward from last year.

This amount the Directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

	Tls.
A dividend of Tls. 14.00 per share	105,000.00
Amount to be placed to credit of reserve fund	70,000.00
Amount to be written off for depreciation	10,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account	13,038.03

Tls. 198,038.03

In accordance with the articles of association Mr. Jas. R. Twentyman retires, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Geo. R. Corner, and the directors recommend his re-election.

THE STRIKE OF NIGHTMEN.

The following circular has been issued by the Sanitary Board:—

A strike amongst the private nightmen having occurred within the city of Victoria, the Sanitary Board desires to inform householders of the reasons which are alleged to have caused it to take place.

The alleged primary cause is the preliminary step taken to enforce the by-laws which were made by the Sanitary Board in October, 1894, and approved by the Legislative Council in December of the same year.

After the issue of the preliminary notice to the nightmen, it appears that certain evil disposed persons industriously spread a false rumour that the Sanitary Board were going to charge a fee for the registration, etc., of private nightmen.

The objects of the above mentioned by-laws are:—

- (1) To secure competent persons for this service who will be known to the officers of the Board.
- (2) To secure regular and efficient removal of nightsoil from within the limits of the city.
- (3) To afford a means for persons employing such men to satisfy themselves that they are duly authorized by the Board for such service.
- (4) To secure the removal of nightsoil in the most efficient manner and with as little inconvenience to householders and danger to the public health as is possible.

The Board further desires to inform householders that no fee whatever is charged for registration, supply of badges and buckets, and to solicit their co-operation in the steps that are being taken to enforce these by-laws.

Nightmen can register, obtain badges and buckets on application at the Sanitary Board's offices.

By Order,

HUGH MCCALLUM,
Secretary.

Sanitary Board Offices,
Hongkong, 24th September, 1896.

THE CHINESE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE JAPAN RELIEF FUND.

We (*Kobe Chronicle*) reprint the following article from the *Yorodzu Choho* :—

Our attention is elsewhere called to the fact that among the many subscribers to the Seismic Wave Fund in Hongkong there were perhaps a dozen Chinese represented; and considerable stress is laid on this fact, as proving that our recent foes are by no means so black—or shall we say, yellow—as they are painted. We are bidden to find among them traits of singular generosity and magnanimity; and magnanimity great enough to cause them to send gifts of money to sufferers in the very land whose prowess they were so recently made to feel. And thereby hangs a tale.

It has not been forty years since Chinese learning and Chinese ideas were all-powerful in this our Empire. Not fully understanding the depth and breadth of Western science, we took the best we could find close at hand. The Buddhistic lore of India, with its wonderfully developed metaphysical science and all else; had come to us by way of China; our graphic system was based on that of the sister Empire, and there were then tens of thousands who knew no higher moral code than that taught by Confucius, Mencius, Licius, and Laoicius. It did not take long, however, for us to learn that Chinese science, as such, was incommensurate with the great problems of the century; that it represented a semi-pastoral stage of existence wholly impossible in these later days. And so we cast in our lot with the broad humanitarian, more truly scientific, ideas of the West. Yet have we never forgotten the educational debt we owe to China, and the fact that our greatest teachers and scholars in the past, drew their inspiration from that source. And so we never have, for an instant, denied the Chinese the possession of certain high moral qualities which would do honour to any nation. In the late great war with that Empire, we are fully conscious of the bravery of the troops we had to meet with. At Kangwasae, Tienchwangtai, and a dozen other places this was amply proved. But our then enemies were miserably officered and always handicapped by this extreme inefficiency on the part of their leaders. Yet the Chinese can fight, and most courageously at that. The last days of the once famous Pei-yang squadron at Weihaiwei are proof positive, if indeed any further demonstration be wanting.

On the other hand, we claim that the Chinese are morally obtuse. They have an over-exalted idea of what is meant by filial piety; yet know not the real meaning of fidelity or loyalty; they prate of uprightness and benevolence, but the practice of these two virtues is, outside of novels and ethical handbooks, well-nigh a dead letter. The Chinese are clannish, patriotic in so far as they believe the soil of their country pretty much sacred and the nation itself the one hub of the universe, and commercially the keenest of the keen. We are compelled, if reluctantly, to acknowledge that Chinese merchants seem to get along better with Westerners than we do; but just why that is we do not care to elucidate at present. Best of all are those Chinese merchants who for long years have had connection and dealings with large foreign importers and exporters. And so we come to the Chinese mercantile community of the Crown Colony of Hongkong. Here we find a large proportion actually acknowledging the Queen as their Sovereign. They are thus Chinese in name only. And if a big subscription list is started by the eminently generous foreign firms of Hongkong, would it look pretty, think you, or would it be "pidgin" for the Chinese firms and big merchants to hold aloof in toto? They are far too astute to do anything of the kind. Does the *Kobe Chronicle*, or indeed any other foreign-edited journal, actually suppose that the

Chinese subscribers really sent in their shakels out of bona fide feelings of pity for and kindly sympathy with the Japanese Seismic Wave sufferers? Well, well—let us give them the benefit of the doubt. The millennium certainly is not very far off.

But, such considerations apart, we are exceedingly obliged to the good Chinese who subscribed to the Hongkong Seismic Wave Fund. Whatever may have been their prime motives in making donations, Mr. Sim has undoubtedly put the Mexicans to excellent use. And we promise that the very next time a tidal wave sweeps over the Woosung bar and up the muddy Yangtse we, too, will head a list of subscribers for a Chinese Relief Fund.

SPECIAL OPEN PORTS IN FORMOSA.

The following are the regulations for the special open ports in Formosa :—

The foreign trade of the island is permitted at the four open ports, viz., Tamsui, Kelung, Anping, and Takow, and shipment and discharge of cargo are prohibited in other ports.

Junks owned by natives of China will have the same privileges as others and are not allowed to enter or leave any other port than those above mentioned.

Lately, Lok-kang and Kin-kang were specially opened for the trade of the mainland ports for the subjects of His Imperial Majesty and natives of Taiwan, but as the surveillance of the illicit import trade of junks was unsatisfactory on account of the mixing together of Chinese and native junks, the Governor-General in Council has introduced certain regulations for the guidance of junks trading at said ports, and certificates will be granted to every native junk to carry commodities and trade on the coast, on reporting to the Customs Office the egress and ingress of said junks.

The Customs Office will provide a certain number of revenue cruisers (one of which has been already purchased) for the purpose of preventing junks entering the harbours clandestinely, and consequently the examination of illicit import of goods will be more rigorous than heretofore, and smuggling will soon disappear.

The following are the regulations under which junks are to trade in Formosa :—

Art. I.—Owners of all junks are bound to have them registered in the local Government Office, making, at the same time, an application for a licence.

Art. II.—On the said licence the following details shall be written :—

- (1). The name and residence of the owner.
- (2). The name of the place where registration has been made.
- (3). The name of the junk.
- (4). The kind of junk.
- (5). The Government number of the junk.
- (6). The date on which the licence was issued.

On the licence shall be stamped the grand seal bearing the name of the local Government where the licence was issued.

Art. III.—Should a junk or junks be built or procured in any other place than the place where registration has been made a new process of registration shall be taken, and an application be made to the local Government for a temporary licence, which may be used for the real one.

The owner shall follow the process prescribed under Art. I. within half a year, commencing from the day on which the temporary licence has been issued.

Art. IV.—When the details written on the licence have been altered, or the licence lost, injured, or made useless, an application should be made to the local authorities for the re-writing or re-issuing of a new licence.

Art. V.—When the ownership of junks have been transferred, or junks have been injured, sunk, lost, gone astray, or dismantled, a report should be made to the local Government.

In case the ownership has been transferred or junks have been dismantled, the licences of such junks should be returned to the authorities.

Art. VI.—If the owners of junks do not reside at the place where registration (of junks) has been made, their agents should be stationed in the ports, and the report thereof shall be made by them to the local Government.

Art. VII.—Every applicant for a licence shall pay one yen as fee.

An applicant for renewing a licence shall pay a fee of fifty sen.

Art. VIII.—Junks plying along the coast of the island shall report their departures and arrivals to the Customs or their branches, or to the gendarmerie, or police station, should there be no Customs or their branches, within 24 hours.

Art. IX.—The officers on receiving the report of sailing, according to the procedure prescribed under Art. VIII., shall, after inspection, issue a certificate, containing the names and number of passengers as well as of the crew, the nature and quantity of the cargo, along with the names of the ports of departure resorting to and finally detailed.

Junks furnished with such certificates shall, on entering the port of temporary resort or final destination, report their arrivals and tender the said certificates.

The same procedure shall be followed when, under some unavoidable circumstances, junks have entered, under stress of weather, other ports not specified in said certificates.

Art. X.—Those who ply their junks unprovided with the said licence, or who purchase, sell, or borrow their licences to others, or who violate the second clause of Art. III. or Arts. IV., V., VI., or VII., shall incur a penalty not exceeding twenty-five yen.

Art. XI.—These regulations shall be enforced on and after the first day of the tenth month of the 29th year of Meiji (October 1st, 1896).

The 5th day of the 9th month of the 29th year of Meiji (Sept. 8th, 1896.)

(Signed) KASURA TARO (Viscount),
Governor of Taiwan.

THE SAMSON AND WHANGPOO COLLISION.

ARBITRATION AWARD.

On the 27th August a collision took place at Shanghai between the Messageries Maritimes tender *Whangpoo*, which was bringing passengers up from the *Saghalien*, and the Shanghai Tugboat Company's *Samson*, which was going down the river. The question of damages was referred to the arbitration of Captain A. M. Bisbee and the following is his finding :—

The evidence obtained in this case shows that each of the two vessels involved claims to have been proceeding in strict accordance with Article 21 of the Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, which reads as follows :

"In narrow channels every steamship shall, when it is safe and practicable, keep to that side of the fairway or mid-channel which lies on the starboard side of such ship."

On behalf of the *Whangpoo* it is stated that, coming up the river against the ebb tide, she was, as in duty bound, keeping near the bank which forms the Shanghai side of the channel, and that the collision occurred close to this bank somewhere nearly abreast of the Point Hotel.

On the other hand, the *Samson* claims that she was keeping close to the Pootung side of the channel and that the two vessels came together at a spot between 100 and 175 yards above the mouth of the Haikou Creek.

These statements are in direct conflict with each other, and to my mind, the evidence shows that neither of them can be correct.

I am of opinion that neither vessel was adhering properly to the rule in question, and that neither took decisive action towards getting to her own side of the channel in time. Moreover, the master of the *Whangpoo* gives, as a reason for not porting more than he did, that by so doing he would have run his vessel aground, and the master of the *Samson* says that if he had not stopped he would have run on the Joss House Spit.

It is evident that both these men need to have it most emphatically impressed upon their minds that under no circumstances, when they have to choose between running ashore in the Whangpu or getting into collision, will they be justified in accepting the latter alternative, for in the one case they have only to risk a possible detention through grounding on a mud bank, whilst in the other there is a probability of the sacrifice of many lives.

Fortunately in the present case, though there were 104 souls on board the *Whangpoo*, no one was injured, but that an appalling disaster was only barely escaped, is conclusively shown.

AWARD.

In view of the foregoing I pronounce the *Whangpoo* and the *Samson* equally to blame for the collision that occurred and decide that each shall pay one half of the total cost of the repairs of the damages caused to both vessels by the collision, also one half of the costs of this arbitration.

A. BISBEE,
Arbitrator.

Shanghai, 12th September, 1896.

THE VALUE OF LAND AT SHANGHAI.

The value of land at Shanghai, even after the recent boom, is steadily increasing. Last year a foreign firm sold to some Chinese a piece of ground about twenty-one mow, without buildings, on the Chinkiang Road for Tls. 100,000, and on Saturday last the same piece of land changed hands, a native lady securing it for Tls. 145,000.

A block of old houses in Peking Road, measuring about twenty mow, has just been sold by Chinese to a foreign firm for Tls. 220,000.

Some old houses standing on a piece of land measuring about twenty mow, belonging to a foreign firm, which was offered for sale recently for Tls. 100,000 has just been refused on an offer of Tls. 150,000.

Several wealthy Chinese officials are reported to be watching the market and are expected to buy largely.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

SERIOUS FLOODS AT ICHANG.

Ichang, 9th September.

The river rose to 53 feet 3 in. and flooded the Bund. The Chinese living along the banks and in low-lying districts had to decamp as soon as possible to higher and drier ground. As the water continued to rise it got rather an anxious time. During the night of the 3rd coolies were busy removing cargo from the different godowns. The Swedish missionaries had to seek refuge with Dr. Rankine, of the Church of Scotland Mission, as the house they inhabited was falling in bits. First one part and then another gave away until it was feared the whole would go. A mud gable of a Chinese tenement collapsed into the Church of Scotland Mission compound and covered the roadway with a foot or two of mud. Several shops along the front street have been damaged. Along the back of the settlement was quite an encampment of people fleeing from the flood, and the pond in the valley was turned into a large lake on which craft of all sizes were sailing. The roofs of farm houses just appeared above the water. It was altogether a sad sight. The people must have suffered a good deal. Now that the water is falling, houses are being repaired and the streets cleaned. In some places the sand deposit is several feet deep.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

HONGKONG.

The weather has again been very hot during the past week. The decapitation of Lai Mit, the murderer of a lukong, afforded an ugly break in the monotony of business routine, several residents journeying over to Kowloon City to witness the execution. On Thursday the Sanitary Board met, and on Saturday two company meetings were held.

There were 2,623 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 216 were Europeans.

The half-yearly report of the Director of Public Works on the work of his department is published in the *Gazette*.

The reappointment of the Hon. T. H. Whitehead to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council, provisionally, and until Her Majesty's pleasure may be signified, is gazetted.

Two coolies were taking a bale of cotton into a godown at Wanchai on Wednesday afternoon when they slipped and the bale fell on one of the men, who had to be treated in the Government Civil Hospital.

On Saturday afternoon the gunboat *Pigmy* left for Manila to relieve the *Redpole*.

The nightmen's strike continues, but fortunately a fresh supply of coolies has been obtained and the work is now being carried on satisfactorily. The services of the strikers are therefore not required.

The German Club flag was half-masted on Monday owing to the death of Mr. J. H. Northmann, of Messrs. Blackhead & Co., which occurred on Sunday evening. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. Kyotaro Amano as in charge of the Japanese Consulate in Hongkong during the temporary absence from the colony of Mr. S. Shimizu, Vice-Consul for Japan.

At the Police Court on the 25th September, before Hon. Commander Hastings, Chan Tai Yan and Wong Shang Shun were charged on remand with the murder of two jockeys at Causeway Bay last Saturday night. Several witnesses were examined, after which the prisoners were again remanded.

We are pleased to learn that the Hongkong Public Library has now paid off all its back debts and that there appears to be every hope that it will be possible in the future to keep up a continuous supply of new books. A list has been circulated of books recently purchased, which is of very respectable proportions.

The meeting of Portuguese residents to elect a Committee to carry out the commemoration of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India, which was adjourned from 20th instant to yesterday, the 27th, did not take place, having been further postponed to the 25th proximo, as announced by a circular issued on Saturday.

The drill season of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps is now commencing and gentlemen wishing to be enrolled in either the Field Battery or Machine Gun Company should enter their names if possible before the 30th inst. The camp of instruction at Stonecutters Island commences on the 10th October and is intended for the instruction of all members of the corps, recruits or otherwise.

Three privates in the Rifle Brigade were charged at the Police Court on the 25th September with assaulting the police. They assaulted an Indian constable and then ran away, but one of them tumbled over a lukong and was arrested. The other two went to the police station some time afterwards to take the first man's helmet and they were at once recognised. One man was fined \$10 and the other two \$3 each.

On Saturday afternoon Hon. Commander Hastings held an inquiry on board the steamer *Radley* concerning the death of Arthur Connor. The deceased died on the way up from Singapore and it was alleged that while in a poor state of health he was struck by a fireman named Keiber. The Magistrate said the assault may have caused the death of Connor and he ordered Keiber to be given into custody on a charge of doing grievous bodily harm.

On Wednesday afternoon a launch party, including some members of the police force, was returning from Kowloon City, after the decapitation of Lai Mit, when the dead body of a man was seen floating in the water. When Hongkong was reached a telephone message was immediately sent over to the Water Police Station. A pinnace was sent out and the body picked up. It was that of a young American sailor who was drowned a few days ago whilst bathing in the harbour.

A stoker on a British gunboat told a story at the Police Court on the 25th September which the Magistrate said was very thin. The man refused to pay a ricksha fare at Pedder's Wharf on Thursday night and as an excuse said he had given the coolie half a crown in English money. A constable searched the coolie, but no half crown was found upon him. An officer in the Hongkong Regiment then came forward and paid the fare for the man. The defendant was wanting to go by the Kowloon ferry launch, which was then just moving and the constable was asking for it to be stopped when he was struck in the face by the prisoner. The Magistrate passed a sentence of fourteen days' imprisonment, saying that the punishment would perhaps teach the accused better manners.

Joseph Keiber was charged at the Magistrate's Court on Monday with the manslaughter of Arthur Connor, of the steamship *Radley*. The inquest was held on Saturday and yesterday evidence was taken on a charge of manslaughter preferred against the prisoner, who is alleged to have so seriously injured Connor as to accelerate if not actually cause his death after he had hurt himself against a hatch. After taking some evidence his Worship remanded the case.

The *St. James's Gazette* of the 22nd August contains the following announcement:—Mr. Julian Chaudet, naval storekeeper of Devonport Dockyard, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself through the head with a revolver. He was seen to leave the office shortly before four o'clock, and very soon afterwards a report of firearms was heard from the direction of the lavatory, the door of which was found to be fastened. The door was forced open, and Mr. Chaudet was found lying dead in a pool of blood. In his right hand he held a five-chambered revolver, one of the barrels of which was discharged. The deceased served for some years at Hongkong dockyard. He was a single man, and the dockyard authorities are in entire ignorance of the whereabouts of any of his friends or relatives.

The engineers and shipbuilders of Hongkong gave their first smoking concert of the season at the Institution on Saturday night. These concerts have always proved exceedingly popular in the colony and the large attendance of members and their friends on Saturday night shows how great is the interest taken in the musical gatherings organised by the Institution and is a favourable augury for other successful and happy reunions. The printed programme was lengthy, but not lengthy enough to satisfy the voraciously musical appetite of the audience. Encores had to be given after almost every item, so that it goes without saying that the enthusiasm was great and the enjoyment thorough. Special mention must be made of Mr. Crispin's singing. He was in grand voice and it was a perfect pleasure to hear him bring out the rich deep notes which must be the envy of many other bass singers. Mr. Danenberg gave a couple of pianoforte selections in his customary artistic style, and the numerous other items gave satisfaction. Messrs. Farr and Tyndall Lea accompanied.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held on the 25th September in the Cricket Pavilion. Mr. A. Coxon presided and there was a good attendance of members. The Chairman in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said the Club was to be congratulated on its continued success both from a cricket and financial point of view. The racquet court had also been a success and the Committee hoped that members would play as frequently as they did last year. Last winter challenges were received from Japan and Singapore to send teams there, but unfortunately the Committee were unable to get up the necessary number of men. For the last few weeks the Committee had been trying to get up a team in reply to a challenge from Shanghai, but he was sorry to say that that attempt also failed. He added that a member of the Club had offered a piece of plate, or a mug, or a prize of some sort for the best all round man in the coming season.—(applause)—and the Committee had accepted the onerous duty of deciding at the end of the season who the best man was. Mr. E. W. Mitchell seconded the resolution, which was carried. The Chairman announced that, weather permitting, the ground would be open for practice on Saturday the 3rd October, and the opening match would take place on the following Saturday. Of course it was not in the Committee's power to decide positively the date of the opening match; the decision really rested with the clerk of the weather. The Chairman was re-elected, and Mr. E. A. Ram was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. F. Maitland hon. treasurer. The following Committee were elected:—Messrs. T. Sercombe Smith, Dr. Atkinson, A. Anderson, Campbell, Captain Eccles, and A. Donald. It was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Mitchell to authorise the Committee to spend a special sum in whitewashing and repairing the pavilion. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

An interesting souvenir of the very short-lived Republic of Formosa has been handed to us in the form of a two-leaved card containing a concise account of the brief reign of Lui Jung-fu, the Black Flag leader, in Formosa, after the compulsory cession of the island by the Chinese to Japan. In the account of the finances of the ephemeral Republic the author (Mr. James W. Davidson) describes how Lui, in his efforts to raise a revenue, resorted to the pretty well known expedient in impecunious states of a postage stamp issue, and the card is illustrated with a set of these stamps, which are of the face value of 30, 50, and 100 cash respectively. There were two issues, and this is the second, printed in Canton and perforated. The memento can be obtained at Messrs. Kruse & Co.'s. They will some day be very rare and of considerable value.

MACAO.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

25th September.

In accordance with the request of the Governor of Timor, the Lisbon Government has approved of the construction of an iron wharf in front of the Custom House in that island. The cost will be about \$60,000 and negotiations are in progress with a British firm at Batavia for the carrying out of the work. The plans for this wharf were made ten or twelve years ago, but have never been approved till now. Macao has to bear the expense and no doubt will have to run into debt for the purpose.

The Lisbon Government, in the same despatch that conveyed its approval of the construction of a wharf at Timor, approved the expenditure of a small sum for the dredging of Macao harbour, but it seems to be intended only to throw dust in the eyes of the public. The expenditure approved for harbour expenses is as follows:—\$15,625 for the loan and interest during the year and \$23,400 for the commencement of the harbour works. Macao has to pay on account of Timor \$60,000 or more and for her own urgently required works she is allowed to expend only \$39,025. We did not ask the home Government for a grant or help of any kind in connection with the harbour improvement scheme, but simply to let Macao have her own income and use it for her own benefit, and let Timor rest for a few years at all events. The Government remains deaf to all our entreaties, however, although the harbour is a complete disgrace.

So far as the Macao harbour works are to be carried out, I believe the intention is to begin with the making of a sea wall from Sakong to Green Island, which will be carrying into effect part of the plan of Mr. Loureiro, engineer. This will reclaim a considerable piece of ground, part of which will be available for houses and manufactories, and between Sakong and the new wall junk docks will be made. The mud dredged from the inner harbour will be used to fill up the existing mud flat and the old junk docks. This will be something, no doubt, but it is far from being all we wanted.

The annual revenue of Macao and its expenditure are as follows:—

Revenue	\$663,178.75
Ordinary expenditure. \$490,102.23	
Extraordinary .. 29,375.00	
	519,477.23

Balance

The annual revenue and expenditure of Timor are as follows:—

Revenue	\$113,876.00
Ordinary expenditure \$170,522.85	
Extraordinary .. 50,781.25	
	221,304.10

Deficit

Balance in favour of Macao	\$143,701.52
Deficit of Timor	107,428.10

Balance remaining

From these figures the public will be able to form their own opinion as to whether it is just that Macao should be compelled to give such a large amount to Timor to

keep up that island. If the Government would allow Macao to retain the full balance no doubt in two years or a little more we would be able to effect the complete dredging of the harbour; but no, we have to make good the deficit of that disgraceful Timor and are allowed to retain in our own treasury the paltry sum of \$36,273.42. It is painful to see the money going out like that and doing no good either to Portugal, or Macao, or Timor itself. Things have never gone so badly in Timor as under the Government of Senhor Celestino.

Last Saturday an English family who came here recently to spend a few weeks and have taken a private house had jewelry to the value of \$350 stolen by a coolie. Information was at once given to the police and fortunately in a few hours all the missing articles were recovered. The person who suffered was the pawnbroker, with whom the coolie had pledged the articles for \$35. The pawnshops here are not allowed to accept European goods and if they do so they run the risk of losing both goods and money if the articles have been stolen. The coolie absconded and has not been arrested.

The sellers of pork are making hay while the sun shines. Since the Leal Senado spoke of imposing a new tax on this monopoly the men have never tired of putting up the price, and the public, especially the poor, are suffering proportionately. Formerly the price was \$1 for six or six-and-a-quarter cabbies; now only four-and-a-half cabbies can be obtained for the same amount. The authorities take no notice of this abuse. The monopoly is under the Leal Senado, our representative institution, and that precious body does nothing. It would seem as if some at least of the members thought more of the monopolist's welfare than of that of the public. The time is drawing near for the election of the Leal Senado for 1897-98 and I would again urge the ratepayers to choose independent men who will discharge their duties impartially.

The enrolment of pupils at the Lyceu Nacional for the ensuing term has resulted, it is said, in not more than a dozen entering, some classes having only one pupil and others none. If this be so it would be better for the Government not to open the doors of the institution, and so save the money which otherwise would be wasted.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A Sansz named Leung Lun-ping petitioned the Government some time ago to be allowed to establish telephonic communication between Wuchow and Kwangchow. The Kwangsi and the Kwangtung Governments raise no objection to this being done, and the application has been granted.

A censor named Chan Pak has memorialised the Throne to the effect that, as the Government is heavily burdened with the war-loan, a stamp tax should be instituted, by which a revenue of over 100,000,000 taels per annum might be raised. The stamps, he says, must at first be made in England, but after the Chinese learn how to make them they can be made in Peking. An office should be established in every province to sell stamps. Every title deed must be stamped, and no unstamped title deed should be accepted as valid. The memorialist further states that it is rather a poor way to procure money by selling rank and cutting down the salaries of the officials and that if the stamp-revenue can be obtained the likin taxes can be abolished.

Nearly all the letter carriers' shops were registered before the arrival of the mid-autumn festival. It is to be hoped that the new postal system may be carried on without much difficulty.

On the 19th instant the Tartar General drilled his soldiers in Tung-kan-cheung. His Excellency paid much attention to the drill.

A gunsmith's shop in Wong-sa was sealed by the Government on the 23rd instant. Twelve new guns were found therein and one inmate was arrested. It is said that the shop in question was accused of dealing in arms secretly.

The kidnapper, an old woman, who was handed back to the Chinese Government by the Hongkong Government was tried by the

Magistrate of Namhoi the other day. She strongly denied that she kidnapped the wife of the mandarin, but said the woman asked her to bring her down to Hongkong to lead an immoral life. When they had come to Hongkong, the wife went herself to the Yan-Heng-lau brothel, where she spent three nights, and then she went with her lover to live in a house at West Point for a month. The case was remanded.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

TIENTSIN, 10th September.

The critical position of the Peiho is the one subject which monopolizes public attention. About three weeks ago the currents carried away the embankment a little below the British Settlement, and the great body of the stream is now escaping through the big hole made by the subsequent erosion. The escaping water has turned an extensive plane into a large lake, but meanwhile the reaches below the break have no current, and the usual summer scour on which we depend for the clearance of silt from the fairway is non-existent. At the match-factory natives on some days have waded across the river, and the greatest depth is even now only five feet (it has been three) instead of the twelve necessary to steamer navigation. The most alarming feature of the situation has been the absolute "sit-still-and-do-nothing" attitude of the Chinese in the presence of the disaster. Even now they have no idea of the contingent results to Tientsin City and the innumerable trading interests in North China. Three days ago Samuda's old dredger suddenly drifted down stream—(no foreigner had seen it for six or seven years)—it is now moored near the breach, and the proposal is to set it to work to deepen the river and close the breach simultaneously. It has those very long reaching mud shoots and can (or could once) deposit its silt at a distance of 100 feet. The rush of water is however so strong that it is feared no result will follow. A local civil engineer offered to close the breach for \$5,000, and the shipping companies would have been willing to bear part of the expense, but the Chinese declined.

The railway is quite unable to cope with the trade of the port in its normal condition. At present the exports and imports of five provinces are being carried up and down 45 miles of river in small vessels drawing three and four feet. The whole incident is the most marked and disgraceful breakdown of Chinese administration since the war.

I note several singularly untrue paragraphs circulating in the South about coinage in the North. Like all the rest of littoral China, we have had cash at a considerable premium for a long time. The Provincial Government, to remedy matters, has built an extra shed or two at the East Arsenal and has put down more plant for the production of the copper (bronze) coins; but after all it is a mere drop in the bucket. At present five stamps are turning out 15,000 cash each per day, and this is all that has been done. Next month, however, will probably see a great improvement in this respect: the authorities being about to "mould" as well as "stamp." No machinery has been ordered from England for dollar coinage, and at the present discount of silver there is no immediate intention of undertaking that business. Six or seven years ago a fine plant was obtained from Birmingham, but as silver fell it was never used. The Arsenal authorities are now about to try it for a big experiment in subsidiary silver coinage. The dies are being made here; they are not yet quite perfect, but will be in a week or two, when it is proposed to make a large issue of 20-cent, 10-cent, and 5-cent pieces. Dollars will doubtless be undertaken at some indefinite future period.

Li is expected here not later than the end of the month. His European receptions have undoubtedly rehabilitated him somewhat among the less dense Chinese, and the opinion gains ground that the Tientsin yamen may see him yet again; but I think this notion is partly due to the growing conviction that Wang Wen-shé is not showing himself a strong man. The Censors, by the bye, are increasingly at His Excellency.

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept. 22	727½	750	780	—	720/730	740/770
Sept. 23	727½	750	757½	—	720/730	740/770
Sept. 24	727½	750	757½	—	720/730	740/770
Sept. 25	727½	750	757½	—	720/730	740/770
Sept. 26	730	750	757½	—	720/730	740/770
Sept. 27	730	750	757½	—	720/730	740/770
Sept. 28	730	750	760	—	720/730	750/770
Sept. 29	732½	750	760	—	720/730	540/770

RICE.

HONGKONG, 29th September.—Small arrivals are reported and prices have further advanced. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.92 to 2.95
" Round, good quality	2.55 to 2.58
" Long	2.72 to 2.75
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.42 to 2.45
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.82 to 2.85
" White	3.17 to 3.20
" Fine Cargo	3.31 to 3.36

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 29th September.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—30 bales No. 8 at \$70.50, 550 bales No. 10 at 75.50 to \$80, 80 bales No. 12 at \$79.50 to \$83; 140 bales No. 16 at \$85 to \$85.50, 595 bales No. 20 at \$94 to \$98. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.05, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.75, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.90. Drills.—150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.30. Turkey Reds.—500 pieces 1½ lbs. Clock at \$1.32½, 150 pieces 4½ lbs. Fluteman at \$2.85, 300 pieces 6 lbs. Clock at \$5.60. T. Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.40, 550 pieces 8 lbs. X.M. at \$2.40. 300 pieces V.V. at \$3, 300 pieces X.X. at \$3.05.

METALS:—Iron.—24,000 bundles nail rods Belgian No. 1/6 at \$3.32½. Tin.—100 slabs Fung-chai at \$33. Quicksilver.—1,250 flasks at \$105.50 to \$107.50.

SHANGHAI, 24th September.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—Since our last circular the Native Settling Day has come and gone, and as far as the Piece Goods dealers were concerned everything passed off satisfactorily. This, however, has had no effect on the state of inactivity into which the market had already relapsed, as noted in our late circulars, the dullness, if anything, being more pronounced than before. In many makes there has been absolutely nothing done, or at least reported, but at the same time there are indications that enquiry is rather more general than it was, but at such low prices that importers have no other course than to decline entertaining the offers. Demand from the various Outports is very quiet, except perhaps from Newchwang, which is asking for Bombay Yarns (10s.) and American Drills, but this is greatly attributable to the action of the native holders here, who are obtaining advances on their stocks locally and refusing to sell under the parity of laying down costs. Here and there some small sales have been made at a profit of two or three candelars per piece, but the practice is far from being a general one. The past week has been noticeable for the enormous quantity of Indian Yarn that has arrived or is shortly due, the popular estimate being that about 18,000 bales have been added to the stocks here.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s report.)—25th September:—One day succeeds the other with unvarying monotony, due to the dealer's absolute want of interest in business at the present juncture. Demand not only locally but also from consuming centres has fallen off and the native wholesale houses are idle with large stocks on their hands, on which many are paying 10 and 15 per cent. interest to the native banks. The high rate of native interest is resulting in slow and tardy clearance. Exchange after recovering slightly is again back at the unfavourable figure of 2/10½, so that even if native indentors were inclined to overlook the temporary local drawbacks this gives them a reason to hesitate. Metals generally are at a discount for the nonce, but in face of the firmness of the home markets an improvement must set in here shortly. Nailrods are obtainable from stock at Tls. 2.45 to 2.47½ or 10 per cent. below present home cost, but no transactions are reported. The production of the native Hanyang Iron Works was sold at

public auction the other day, the Pig Iron fetching Tls. 20.60 and for Nailrods Tls. 2.47½ was obtained. Tls. 2.10 for Bar Iron and Tls. 2.00 New Angle Iron were offered, but not accepted. These, it is said, cost Tls. 2.45 and Tls. 2.60 respectively. Tinplates are locally offered at Tls. 3.75; at a slightly lower figure they could be returned to the market without loss. Of nearly every item the same condition of affairs can be reported, Wire Yellow Metal, Copper Zinc, &c. In Scrap Material local quotations are about 20 per cent. below cost. Horse-shoes selling at Tls. 1.75 to 1.82½, Tyres at Tls. 1.95, Steel Plate Cuttings at Tls. 1.60 to Tls. 1.80. As usual, on an unfavourable market, the more shifty native dealers are examining their arrivals with microscopical care for any divergencies that may enable them to escape the losses acceptance entails. The only grain of comfort to be extracted from the situation is the fact that good times are nearer every day.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, September 29th.—Since date of my last the market has ruled comparatively quiet and featureless, and I have nothing of any importance to report. The tendency of rates has been towards weakness, chiefly owing to the approaching settlements, which are somewhat unusually heavy.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai with a still further decline in the London price (£43) have further weakened to 190 per cent. prem. with only very small and unimportant sales at 191, 190, and reported ones at 189. Nationals continue on offer at \$26½ without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands in fair lots at \$81½ cum div., and at \$76 ex div., closing steady at the latter rate with buyers. Unions have again found buyers at \$250 and close firm at that rate. Cantons continue strangely neglected at \$195 nominal. The yearly meeting is advertised to take place on the 19th October, the books closing from the 5th. Yangtszes and North Chinas have found buyers at quotations up North, and Straits have changed hands at \$27½ closing with sellers at \$27½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Have ruled very dull and I have only small sales of Chinas at \$96 to report.

SHIPPING.—Stock generally shows a decline with the exception of Hongkong, Canton, and Macao, which continue unchanged with sales at \$33½ and sellers. Indo-Chinas are still on the downward course, sales having been effected at \$45, \$44, and \$43. China and Manilas are vainly offered at \$71 and a point lower would probably be accepted. Douglasses, notwithstanding that the shareholders succeeded at the general meeting in obtaining a bonus of \$2 per share in addition to the 12 per cent. previously recommended by the General Managers, have ruled anything but firm, sellers at \$65 having ruled the market for the whole week; a few unimportant sales were made at this and a large line is reported to have changed hands at a private rate. At time of closing shares are obtainable at \$65 after sales. I understand that the steamers have done well for the first part of the current half year, but that the Formosa trade has fallen off considerably. China Mutuals still remain on offer at quotations and lower offers would no doubt be accepted were any forthcoming.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars failed to maintain the rise reported in my last, and fell as low as \$129, after sales at \$132, \$131, and \$130; at time of writing, however, the market shows signs of recovering and shares are wanted at \$132. Luzons have failed to improve their position and offers to sell at \$55 and \$54 throughout the week have met with no response. The unsettled state of the Philippines is of course the chief cause of the weakness, and should affairs become more settled a sharp rise may be looked for.

MINING.—I have to report another unusually quiet week in all stocks under this heading. Punjoms have continued quiet, dull, and out of favour with but very few and unimportant sales at \$10.25 and \$10; at time of closing shares are obtainable at \$10 and market closes dull. Raubs have been in some request and have changed hands in small lots at \$5.50; but holders do not seem inclined to part with any number except at an advance. Jelebus have changed hands in small lots at quotation. Balmorals

and Olivers have been neglected and weak with small sales of the former at \$1.90.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued to rule quiet and I have only small business to report at 202 and 201 per cent. prem. cash, and at 203 for October, 205 for November, and 207 for December; market closes firmer for cash at 203 and shares could be placed at equivalent rates on time. Kowloon Wharves have continued strong and in demand, shares having changed hands at \$58 and \$59½. Wanchais unchanged with small sales at quotation.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—The market under this heading has been flat and but little business done. Lands and Hotels have changed hands in small odd lots at quotations. Humphreys Estates have been entirely neglected with sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have declined to \$17½ with sales. Watsons have changed hands at \$12.85 and are on offer at that rate, although small lots are wanted. Ropes have found buyers at \$127 and Electrics at \$6.75 and \$6.85.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$362½, s. & sel.
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	190 % prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$28½
Founders Shares...	£1	\$100
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	nominal
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$132, sales & buyers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1, buyers
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29½
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$17½, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$6.75, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$96, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$29, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$105
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$58½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$127, sal. & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	203 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$378.75, sal. & b.
Canton	\$50	\$195, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$98, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$76, ex. div. sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$342½, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 192½, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$27½, sellers
Union	\$25	\$250, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$75½, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$18
West Point Building	\$40	\$184, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$54, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	72½
Jelebu	\$5	\$3.10, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.90, sales
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$1.50, sellers
Punjoni	\$4	\$10, sales & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3.40, sellers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5.75, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$70, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£3, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$57, ex. div. s. & bon.
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$33.25, sal. & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$42, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$45½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12.85, sales & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 25th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—The week has been characterised by a dragging market, except in Yangtze Insurance shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The only business reported was a cash sale on the 19th at 195 per cent. premium. The market has since ruled weak, with sellers and no buyers either for cash or time. We quote 192 per cent. premium as the closing rate. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co.—On account of the slackness of shipping business the stock has suffered a sharp decline.

Shares were sold at Tls. 32 cash, Tls. 35/34 for 28th February, and Tls. 35 for March delivery. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. have been sold at Tls. 189. S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.—Shares have changed hands at Tls. 195 to Tls. 190. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance shares have been sold at Tls. 190. Unions have been sold at \$252. Yangtzes have been in strong demand, and have been placed at \$153 to \$160. Straits have been done at very irregular rates, \$28 for October, and \$28 for December. Cash shares are offering at \$27. Fire Insurance.—There is no local business to report. Wharves.—Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands at Tls. 122, and are offering. Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown shares have been wanted at 56, and are held for \$58. Mining.—Sheridans are wanted at Tls. 2.50. Punjoma changed hands locally at \$12, and Raubs were sold to Hongkong at \$5.50. Tugs.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 210 ex div., Taku Tug & Lighter shares at Tls. 100, and Shanghai Cargo Boat shares Tls. 200 and Tls. 202. Sugars.—China Sugar Refining shares have been sold at \$131 and \$130 cash, \$134/133 for November, \$135/136 for December, and to Hongkong at \$132 cash and \$137 for March. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were purchased, from Hongkong, at \$55. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 81. Hongkong Land Investment shares are wanted in Hongkong, at \$75. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton S. & W. shares were sold at Tls. 80 cash, and Tls. 81 for delivery on the 31st October, Laou-Kung-Mow shares at Tls. 95 cash and Tls. 100 for December delivery, International shares at Tls. 95, and Ice shares at Tls. 150. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 118 for November and Tls. 115 for December, Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 425 cum the right to the new issue, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$37, cum the interim dividend of \$2 declared payable on the 30th current. Hongkong Electric shares were purchased, from Hongkong, at \$7, and A. S. Watson & Co. shares were sold locally at \$12, and to Hongkong at \$12.75. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 1899 Debentures were sold at Tls. 107, and Shanghai Municipal Debentures of 1893, paying 6 per cent. interest, at Tls. 105.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 29th September.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.68
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.73
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.17
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	52 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	179
Bank, on demand	179 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	179
Bank, on demand	179 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	15 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.23
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	48.00

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 25th September (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Our last was dated the 11th instant, and since then we have passed the most important settling-day the Chinese have during the year, at one time it looked as if the natives were going to have some difficulty in squaring up accounts; however, we believe this was not the case, as everything went off very satisfactorily, although interest at one time was as high as twenty per cent. per annum. Our freight business has shown no signs of improving and London steamers are still getting very meagre support, and for New York there is still a scarcity of cargo, and rates have been reduced to thirty shillings per ton, thereby offering a little

more inducement to shippers. Coasting is still in the same dull state, and rates all round remain the same; it is apparent from the departures from this and the south of several vessels, some to the west coast of America and others to Australia, that they have held out as long as they can, but have now found that the time has arrived when it was absolutely necessary to seek other climes. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; tea 30s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; tea 45s.; Boston via New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; Philadelphia, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net.; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net.; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 17s. 6d.; New York by Pacific Lines, 1 1/2 gold cents. per lb. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai 60 cents nominal per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai 60 cents nominal per ton coal.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Java (str.), Nestor (str.), Rohilla (str.), Tellus (str.), Ningchow (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Rio de Janeiro (str.), Ningchow (str.), Casablanca (str.).
For HAVRE.—Kriemhild (str.).
For BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
For VICTORIA.—Elizabeth Rickmers (str.), Altmore (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Charles E. Moody, Josephus, Saint Mark, Asloun (str.).
For BALTIMORE.—Helen Brewer (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Malacca (str.), Tsinan (str.), Yamashiro Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

September—ARRIVALS.
25, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
25, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
25, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
25, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
25, Oopack, British str., from Amoy.
26, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., from Y'hama.
26, Cheang Hye Teng, Brit. str., from S'pore.
27, Amara, British str., from Samarang.
27, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
27, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Canton.
27, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
27, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
27, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
27, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
27, Patroclus, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
28, Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
28, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
28, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
28, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
28, Hertha, German str., from Hamburg.
28, Ixion, British str., from Shanghai.
28, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.
28, Shigama Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
29, Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
29, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
29, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
29, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Tamsui, British str., from Newchwang.
29, Rainbow, British cruiser, from Nagasaki.
29, Strathallan, British str., from Canton.
29, Rattler, British gunboat, from Macao.
29, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
29, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
29, L. Schepp, Amr. ship, from Yokohama.
29, Teucer, British str., from Liverpool.
29, Manila, British str., from London.

September—DEPARTURES.

25, Amarapoor, British str., for Moji.
25, Oslo, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
25, Taileo, German str., for Hongay.
25, Afridi, British str., for Yokohama.
25, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
25, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
25, Guthrie, British str., for Australia.
25, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.

25, Kriemhild, German str., for Hamburg.
25, Merionethshire, British str., for Brisbane.
25, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
25, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
25, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
25, Wuhu, British str., for Swatow.
26, Afridi, British str., for Kobe.
26, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
26, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
26, Strathleven, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Tetartos, German str., for Singapore.
27, China, German str., for Saigon.
27, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
27, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., for Singapore.
27, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
27, Siam, British str., for Hoihow.
27, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
27, Pigmy, British gunboat, for Manila.
27, Rattler, British g.-bt., for Macao.
28, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
28, Oopack, British str., for London.
28, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
28, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
29, Cheang Hye Teng, British str., for Amoy.
29, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
29, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
29, Ixion, British str., for London.
29, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
29, Memnon, British str., for Kudat.
29, Patroclus, British str., for Manila.
29, Tamsui, British str., for Canton.
29, Josephus, Amr. ship, for New York.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Memnon, str., from Sandakan—Mr. Wilder.
Per Formosa, str., from East Coast—Mrs. Innocent and two children, and Mr. J. W. Davidson.
Per Lyeemoon, str., from Shanghai—Mr. T. Engel.
Per Fushun, str., from Shanghai—Captain Lindholm.
Per Hiroshima Maru, str., from Kobe—Mr. J. L. Stevens.
Per Tosa Maru, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Mr. Warner.
Per Zafiro, str., from Manila—Messrs. Ong Capin and family, Balfour, Way, McNeill, Kern, Herman, and Hilfama.
Per Hongkong, str., from Hoihow—Mr. D. S. Heaysman, Miss M. Rebuero, Messrs. P. P. Charles and P. P. Violet.
Per Helene Rickmers, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Mr. H. Willner.
Per Taisang, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Miss Neild, Miss Gaskin, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. Muir, Miss and Master Wadilove. From Swatow for Hongkong—Mr. Caffer.
Per Oceanien, str., from Marseilles, &c.—Miss Hall, Messrs. de Assumpcao, W. Gater, Dempster, Jensen, Rivet, Dohee, Ketwal, and Milner.
Per Hertha, str., from Hamburg, &c.—Mr. Sernow.

DEPARTED.

Per Kaiser-i-Hind, str., from Yokohama for London—Miss Millar. From Kobe for Port Said—Mr. and Mrs. O'Fallon. For Calcutta—Mr. and Mrs. Bird. From Hongkong for London—Miss Russell and Mr. F. R. Weymouth. For Brindisi—Messrs. H. W. L. Way and Hugh C. McNeill. For Adelaide—Mr. Chey Wei Yeh. For Melbourne—Messrs. Chung Yih Sun, Leung Wo, Chung Yuen, Chung Fan. For Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Lau Lung Chan, and Mr. Seah Cheam Tuan. From Shanghai for Singapore—Mr. J. C. Daunt, Miss Grenard, and Mr. J. Jun Man. For Penang—Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Lindsay. For London—Messrs. N. Sinclair, C. Borgren, J. W. Murback, Mrs. C. Cole, and Mrs. Percebois and 4 children.
Per Guthrie, str., for Port Darwin—Mrs. Hill and 2 children, and Mr. Taylor.
Per Ancona, str., from Hongkong for Yokohama—Messrs. C. N. Barker, J. A. Wilder, C. Schwencke, W. Biscup, and Aug. Riege. Rev. Mrs. Waddell and 4 children, Messrs. Ernot Krug, and C. Henser. For Nagasaki—Mr. Souza. From London for Yokohama—Mr. A. M. Gale.
Per Formosa, str., for Amoy—Capt. and Mrs. Farrow and 3 children, Miss Saunders, and Mrs. Adams. For Tamsui—Dr. and Mrs. Mers and 2 children, and Miss Firms.
Per Helene Rickmers, str., for Antwerp—Mr. H. Willner.